

Understanding the Cross

1. 1 Corinthians 15.1-5

- 'Gospel' =good news.
- *Nothing* is more important than this.
- Gospel-Jesus died for our sins, was buried and was raised from the dead.
- 'According to Scripture'-planned, prophesied. Not an accident, not plan 'B'

2. John 3.16-18

- God did not just love the world-he 'so' loved the world.
- To create the world it cost him a word, to save the world, it cost him *the* 'Word' (John 1.14)
- Salvation cost God *everything he could give*-His one and only Son!
- 'Wrath remains'-sin condemns, Jesus saves. To reject the gospel is to remain condemned by our sin.

3. Psalm 22.1.6-18

- Written c.1000 years before Jesus. Crucifixion not 'invented' yet.
- 'My God, my God'-Jesus quoted this on the cross: fulfilled them, experienced them, and *drew attention to them*.
- Angry mob, anguished soul, *very* specific details of crucifixion.
- No other religious writings have anything like this-inspired by God.

4. Isaiah 53.3-7(Isaiah 52.14)

- v.3-4 Jesus was rejected by the people. They mistakenly believed God was punishing him for his own sin.
- v.5 Jesus suffered in *our* place, for *our* sins. We should be on the cross!
- v.6 'Of us all'-the sins of humanity were upon him (past, present, future).
- v.7 'Slaughter'-brutal suffering: physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- v.7 'Silent'-no resistance, pure love.
- v.12 'Disfigured beyond human likeness'-horrible abuse. They despised him!

5. Matthew 26.36-42; 27.45-54

- What was in the cup? Our sins (all of them); God's judgment against those sins
- Much more than just physical suffering
- v.45 'Forsaken me'-Jesus was cursed, crushed, cut off from the Father for our sins.
- Psalm 22 fulfilled.
- Surely, he is the Son of God!

6. Philippians 2.5-11

- The cross is so meaningful, so powerful, because of WHO died -the Son of God
- As God's Son, He was able to die for all of us, not just one man
- Jesus went from the highest place to the lowest
- God exalted him from the lowest place to the highest

7. 2 Corinthians 5.21

- Perfect exchange, priceless gift:
- My sin for his righteousness, my curse for his blessing, my death for his life
- Forgiveness and righteousness is *found only in Christ...*
- The cross proves two things about God: 1) He is holy and just-our sin is punished! 2) He is loving and gracious-his own Son died in our place!

8. Romans 5.6-10

- God's love is also proven, perfectly expressed on the cross. How?
- Jesus died for sinners, the ungodly, the powerless, the enemies of God-all of us.
- Jesus died for *my* specific sins, for *me* personally, not simply the generic 'sins of the world'

9. Revelation 5.9-10

- 'A Lamb that was slain'-Jesus' sacrifice is the centerpiece of heaven
- Eternity will not be long enough to fathom his love or appreciate what he has done for us

10.1 Corinthians 1.18-21

- The cross is foolish to the unbeliever.Only the humble can 'see' the glory of Christ on the cross
- The cross is the ultimate expression of God's wisdom and power to save

11.2 Corinthians 4.3-6

- The gospel is 'veiled' to the perishing.The devil has blinded the minds of 'unbelievers'
- The gospel is so *obviously* glorious it is a light radiating in the darkness.This blindness is terrifying

12.2 Corinthians 5.14-15

- Christ love for us is should be what truly motivates us to live for him
- 'Convinced'-the more real this becomes,the deeper our own love for him will grow
- 'We died'-to our sins, to ourselves, to the world. Our only thought should be to please Jesus in all things.
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Decision: Will you open your heart to the love of God expressed in the cross of Christ? How will this affect you?

Nine more: Matthew 26.36-27.54; John 12.23-33; John 12.37-41; Acts 3.13-15; Romans 8.31-39; 1 Corinthians 1.26-2.5; Galatians 2.20-21; 1 Peter 2.21-25; Revelation 1.9-18

