

RESURRECTION SUNDAY 2026

"The Cross = VICTORY"

Galatians 2:20

INTRODUCTION:

1. **As Christians**, many of us are not living our lives @ the level that God enables us to.
 - a) **Question is**, Are we expressing the fullness of the abundant life that Jesus to provide?
 - 1) If we are to experience the fullness of the abundant life, we must remember the **FOUNDATION** of our faith. That is the **Basics**.
2. When we **fail** to understand the **BASICS** (Core) of our faith, we will fail to respond appropriately to the *circumstances* (situations) of life.
3. **IMAGE** - The Cross - More than two pieces of wood.
4. When I talk about "**the Cross**" I am talking about the **sacrificial atonement** of Jesus Christ, and Resurrection from the dead.
 - a) **Atonement** - Satisfaction for a wrong - to take away
5. **VERY IMPORTANT**: The Cross is the foundational essence of our faith.
 - a) **Sinners don't understand the Cross.**
 - 1) **Because if they did...**they would run to it.
 - b) **Many Saints don't appreciate the Cross.**
 - 1) **Because if they did**, they would live differently in light of it.

THREE ASPECTS OF THE CROSS

I. THE REASON WE DON'T FULLY APPRECIATE THE CROSS

1. Why? *Because we don't see the need for it.*
2. When breath no longer comes easy, all of a sudden the value of breathing goes way up!!
3. **The Cross can be similar in many ways.**
 - a) Well, it's a nice reminder during communion that Jesus loved us and died for us.
 - b) It looks good on the wall or on top of a Church.
4. The value of the cross is absolute - without it we would all be dead inn our trespasses and sins.

a) Yet the reason why we presume the value of the cross, is because we have forgotten our absolute need for the Cross.

II. UNDERSTANDING OUR NEED FOR THE CROSS

A. BECAUSE GOD IS HOLY

1. God's number one core attribute is His Holiness.

2. *Isaiah 6:3*

a) "*Holy, Holy, Holy*"

1) Not "*Love, Love, Love*"

2) Not "*Peace, Peace, Peace*"

b) The word "holy" means to be in a class by itself.

1) Holy speaks to the transcendent nature of God.

3. Therefore, God gave the Law as a righteous standard to mankind.

a) *Roman's 3:19-20*

4. *By reducing God's standard of holiness while simultaneously elevating mankind, they no longer have to deal with God as God.*

B. BECAUSE OF THE LAW

1. *Romans 3:21*

2. God has one standard to which He holds us accountable -

a) *Romans 6:23* - God's standard is *perfection*.

3. We must remember - the law was never given to us to make us righteous.

a) The law makes us unrighteous (guilty) before God.

b) *Romans 3:20*

4. **The Law cannot fix us!!!** It cannot make us righteous.

a) The law reveals what needs to be fixed.

b) The law reveals our *unrighteousness*.

5. **TODAY** it's easy to ignore unrighteousness.

a) We do this by not calling sin "sin".

1) We call it a "**mistake**" or a shortcoming.

6. *Isaiah 64:6*

7. WOW!!!!!! AND on top of that Jesus raises the bar!!!

a) *Matthew 5:27-28*

b) *Romans 3:12*

8. *Not everyone sins @ the same level*, yet that won't get you very far when the standard is perfection.

C. BECAUSE OF AN AWARENESS OF SIN

1. So why does God want us to have an awareness of sin?

a) **WHY** did He give us the Law as a revealer not only of our actions but also of our hearts?

b) **BECAUSE** it is in seeing our sin that we also see our need for our Savior.

2. God wants us to see clearly *how sinful we are* so that we can fully appreciate the significance of the cross.

3. *Romans 5:6; 8; 10*

4. *1 Peter 3:18*

II. WHAT CHRIST ACCOMPLISHED ON THE CROSS

- On the Cross, Jesus accomplished three specific things.

A. OUR JUSTIFICATION

1. Justification is a legal concept involving the idea of justice.

2. Knowing this God created a way to satisfy His wrath against us by carrying it out on a sinless sacrifice - Jesus Christ.

3. **VERY IMPORTANT:** This path that God created in order to satisfy His wrath and acquit sinners is known as IMPUTATION - Which means God attributed (credited) our sin to Jesus account, and credited His righteousness to our account.

a) *2 Corinthians 5:21*

4. *Romans 6:23*

5. **VERY IMPORTANT:** On the Cross Jesus did more than bear our sins.

a) *1 Peter 2:24*

6. Yet He did more than that.

a) He "**became**" sin. Or literally means "**to be sin**"

7. For 33 years, **Jesus had lived in a sinful environment.**
 - a) **Jesus was exposed to sin daily, yet He remained perfect.**
 - 1) **Matthew 5:17**

8. **VERY IMPORTANT:** The population of the earth is **8.3 billion.**
 - a) It has been estimated that **117 billion** people have lived on earth.

9. **NOW THINK OF THAT!!!!** 117 billion people times all of their sins.
 - a) Sins of **attitudes**
 - 1) Arrogance and Pride
 - 2) Condescending attitudes. - to behave as if superior
 - b) And **actions** all hurled @ Jesus on the Cross.

10. That moment was so bad - **Matthew 27:46**

11. @ that moment **Jesus became sin.**
 - a) @ that moment we often think about the lashes upon his back. Or the thorns that ground into His skull.
 - b) Perhaps the nails in His hands and feet.
 - 1) And all of that was excruciatingly painful.
 - c) **But nothing compared to when he cried out** - Matthew 27:46
 - 1) **Luke 22:42-43**

12. @ that moment Jesus became sin.
 - a) **2 Corinthians 7:21**
 - b) **Ephesians 4:8-10**
 - c) **Psalm 16:10**

B. OUR REDEMPTION

1. To redeem means to purchase through the price of a payment.

2. **Romans 3:24**

3. Redemption is the act of God whereby, on the basis of Jesus ransom' payment, He releases the gospel believer from bondage to his evil spiritual masters and from the penalties of his sins and brings him into bondage to the Lord Jesus, his benefactor.
 - a) **Ephesians 2:3-6**

4. On the Cross, He not only paid the penalty for our ransom from sin, but He removed that penalty for our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west.
 - a) **Psalm 103:12**

C. OUR PROPITIATION

1. The third thing accomplished for us on the cross is **PROPITIATION**.

a) *Romans 3:25*

2. *Romans 1:18*

3. Propitiation means "to satisfy, appease, or expiate"

4. *Exodus 12 21-23*

CONCLUSION:

1. When Jesus died on the cross, He received the judgment that was due us.

a) The flames of God's wrath will not reach those who have accepted Christ as savior.

b) Jesus has removed the penalty for our sins and satisfied God's wrath toward sin.

2. Because Jesus satisfied the debt we owed, we have nothing to fear with regard to eternity, but we have been given so great a salvation to live out on earth.

3. *Galatians 2:20*