

THE CROSS


THE CENTREPIECE OF
GOD'S SAVING GRACE

What is the series about?

Through a 7 week series we are going to be exploring the centrepiece of God's saving grace.

- Part 1 - *Where is the lamb?* - Genesis 22
- Part 2 - *God will Passover* - Exodus 12
- Part 3 - *Lamb to the slaughter* - Isaiah 53
- Part 4 - *My God, Why?* - Psalm 22
- Part 5 - *A cross-shaped life* - 1 John 4:7
- Part 6 - *The Lion & the Lamb* - Revelation 5
- Part 7 - *Foolish or powerful?* - 1 Corinthians 1

Listen to the audio

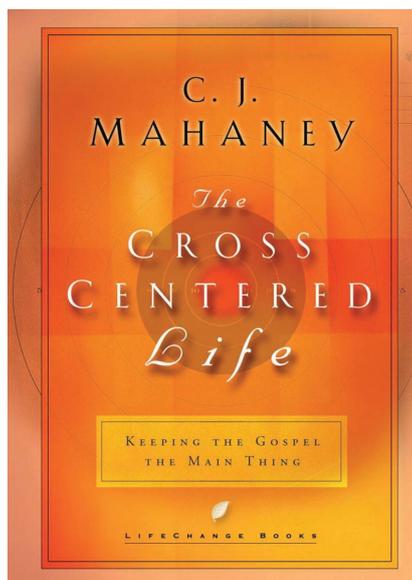
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kingsnorwich.com/thecross

Check out the blog

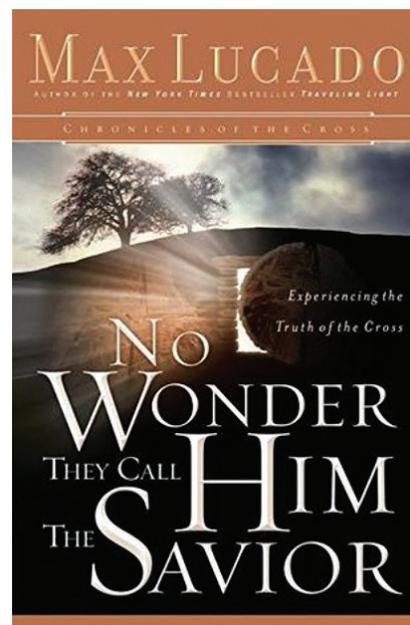
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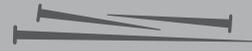
Recommended Reading

The Cross Centered Life
CJ Mahaney



No Wonder They call Him the Savior
Max Lucado





Title: The Cross Shaped Life

Speaker: Toby Skipper

Bible reference: Luke 9:18-26 (with focus on v23)

Overview

Don Carson writes; *"What it means to be 'spiritual' is profoundly tied to the cross and to nothing else... Indeed, those who are most mature are most grateful for the cross and keep coming back to it as the measure of God's love for them and the supreme standard of personal self-denial."* Jesus says *"Whoever would come after me, must deny themselves, take up their cross daily and follow me."* These words only make sense and carry weight when we grasp who is doing the asking; Jesus is the Messiah (anointed one - *Isaiah 61/Luke 4:18*) of God; he is God with us.

Our lives can be shaped by many things. But for the Christ-follower, our lives are to be cross-shaped. *2Cor 5:15* *"Jesus died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died/raised."* There are dominant themes in western culture that are diametrically opposed to living a cross shaped life... Culture says do what feels good – The Cross says do what is good - Jesus didn't feel like the cross; Culture says take revenge – The Cross says extend forgiveness - Jesus said *"Father forgive them..."*; Culture says go with the flow - The Cross says stand your ground, even in the face of persecution, mocking & ridicule; Culture says take care of number one – The Cross says seek the good of others even at great cost to yourself, for this is LOVE (*1John 4:10*). All from a position of & empowered by grace!

Response (SOUL)

Run through the following sections. Use smaller groups at any time if helpful.

S = Scripture - Read it, what does it say?

O = Observe - What do you see, context, details, surprises etc?

U = Understand - What truth does God want you to learn?

L = Live - What would it look like to apply this to your life?