

I. Introduction

A. The Symbol of The Cross

1. There is no stronger emblem of Christianity than the cross.
2. A cross on top of a church steeple.
3. Crosses on church signs.
4. Cross jewelry.
5. Crosses on the side of the road – Chattanooga – 3 crosses.
6. When you think of Christianity there is no stronger symbol than that of the cross.

B. What is so important about the cross?

1 Corinthians 1:18 (KJV) – *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

1. **There is power released in the preaching of the cross.**
There is something about the cross.
2. **The power of the cross is not working the same for all people.**
 - a. **1 Corinthians 1:18 (CEV)** – *The message about the cross doesn't make any sense to lost people. But for those of us who are being saved, it is God's power at work.*
 - b. The power of the cross is at work in those who believe.
Those who believe in what took place at the cross.
Those who believe in what is accomplished at the cross.
 - c. The cross seems entirely foolish to the unsaved – they have no understanding of its significance.

- d. There are many in the church who do not understand its significance.

If you were asked today – what is the meaning of the cross, could you give a good answer?

II. Why the Cross?

A. Questions

1. Why did Jesus have to die?

- a. What is the necessity of talking about his death?
- b. Why not talk only about his miracles and teachings?

2. Why did He have to die such a horrible death – the death of the cross?

- a. If He had to die, why did it have to be so brutal?
- b. There was no death any worse/painful than dying on the cross.
- c. Roman crucifixion was made to be so brutal and torturous that it would serve as a warning to those who would consider certain crimes.

3. Why is the message of Christianity so gory – bloody?

- a. Several years ago, there was a move in the modern church to do away with the cross as church symbols.
- b. There has also been movement toward doing away with the reference of blood in songs and other church related practices.
- c. Old Songs

- Power in The Blood

Would you be free from your burden of sin

There's power in the blood, power in the blood

Would you o'er evil a victory win

There's wonderful power in the blood

- Are You Washed in The Blood
*Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power
Are you washed in the blood of the lamb?
Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?*

- *Nothing but The Blood*
*There is fountain filled with blood flowing from Emanuel's
veins.*

Note: Do we understand what we are singing about?
*Why – is there power in the blood?
Why is there a fountain filled with blood?
Why do I need to be washed in the blood of the Lamb?*

B. The Power of the Cross/Blood is the only remedy for Sin

1. All have sinned!

- a. **Romans 3:23 (KJV)** – *For all have sinned, and come short of the
glory of God*
Romans 3:23 (CEV) – *All of us have sinned and fallen short of
God's glory*
- b. Fallen short of God's glory.
*We came up short.
To fall short of a goal – purpose – standard.
Insufficient – lacking.
We missed it.*
- c. When God created the human race, he had something glorious in
mind.
*He created us in his likeness and in His image!
He gave us dominion and authority to rule over the earth!*
- d. When Adam and Eve sinned, they gave away everything that God
had invested in them.

- e. The human race sinned – came up short/they could never reach God’s goal and awesome plan that he had prepared for their lives. They missed it!
- f. Because of that original sin – everyone of us were born into sin – born as transgressors of God’s righteous law.

2. The remedy for sin was in the cross.

- a. Somebody had to pay!
Someone had to pay the penalty – for sin!
Someone had to bear the judgement for sin!
God is a Just God – He cannot look the other way – there had to be a penalty.
- b. The remedy was for God’s own son to come and to take our sins – the penalty/curse for our sins – and deal with it at the cross.
- c. **Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)** – *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross*
Philippians 2:8 (ABPE) – *He humbled himself and was obedient unto death, even the death of being crucified.*
- d. **Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV)** – *And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.*
Hebrews 9:22 (AMP) – *In fact under the law almost everything is cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness [neither release from sin and its guilt, nor cancellation of the merited punishment]*
- e. **When God’s law was broken – it was such a serious matter, that the only remedy was the shedding of blood.**
This is why God slew animals in the garden to make a covering for Adam and Eve when they sinned. The shedding of blood!

THE PRICE WAS GREAT

1 Corinthians 7:23 (KJV) – *Ye are bought with a price – be not ye the servants of men.*

Price – a valuing by which the price is fixed. Used to denote the price of valuables – especially of the highest degree. This term was used here not just to denote that a price had to be paid for sin – but that the price required was the HIGHEST PRICE determined

THE PRICE OF SALVATION FROM SIN

- Blood
 - Death
 - The most torturous degree of death – the cross.
 - The whip – the hammer – the cross
- f. The only means of God redeeming the human race back to himself was the shedding of pure sinless blood – Jesus was the only one who could qualify.
- g. He was willing and obedient – even to meet the requirement of death on the cross. The brutality of death on the cross – speaks to us about the great price of sin!

C. Applying the great remedy of the cross to your life.

1. Salvation can never be earned – only receive by faith!

- a. Believing that Jesus is the son of God.
- b. Believing that He died for YOUR sins.
- c. Believing that God raised Him from the dead.

2. No one qualifies to say, “I don’t need a savior.”

- a. No one can claim, “I am a good person so I should enter heaven.”
- b. Believing, that I am as good as someone else isn’t sufficient.
You may be as good morally as someone else, but do you have a blood covering? Did you receive Jesus as your sacrifice?

- c. Good moral people can still die unsaved/lost – because they never received the REMEDY – God’s only REMEDY for sin.
- d. **Hebrews 2:3 (KJV)** – *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him?*

Hebrews 2:3 (CEV) – *So if we refuse this great way of being saved, how can we hope to escape? The Lord himself was the first to tell about it, and people who heard the message proved to us that it was true*

- 3. God the Father has done everything He can ever do to bring you back into right standing with him.**
He devised the amazing plan – of redemption – through the cross.
- 4. Jesus has done everything He can ever do – to give you the gift of salvation.**
 - a. He was willing to suffer.
 - b. He was willing to die – on the cross – for all of your sin!
- 5. If God has done His part, and Jesus and done His part, whose part is missing? It must be up to you!**
- 6. Salvation has been freely provided – you must do the receiving.**
- 7. God made it as easy as it could possibly be made.**

Romans 10:10 (NKJV) – *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*

Romans 10:10 (NLT) – *For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved*