

Everyone Needs the Cross

I. The events surrounding Easter are significant.

A. The significance of Easter.

1. Our savior is alive!

Unlike other religious figures who have lived and died.

2. The resurrection of Jesus insures our personal resurrection to new life in Christ.

3. Without the resurrection, we are no different than any other religion.

4. The resurrection offers us a spiritual experience of being transformed by the same power that raised Jesus from the Dead.

B. The Significance of the Cross

Why did Jesus have to die?

Why the death of the Cross?

What is the significance of the Cross in my life?

Common questions and statements you hear.

1. What is the significance of the cross to me?

2. Why did Jesus have to die?

3. Why do we need a savior?

4. I live as good or better than many who attend church every week.

5. I don't practice a lifestyle of sin.

6. I don't need to be saved.



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C. **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 Corinthians 1:18 (AMP) – *For the message of the cross is foolishness [absurd and illogical] to those who are perishing and spiritually dead [because they reject it], but to us who are being saved [by God's grace] it is [the manifestation of] the power of God.*

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.*

WHAT IS THIS WORK THAT IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED IN US THROUGH THE CROSS? *What does the cross do for us?*

1. **The cross deals with the Sin issue.**

a. **The cross is God's answer for all sin!**

1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV) – *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

1 Peter 2:23 (NLT) – *He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.*

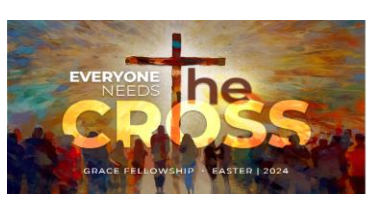
b. **When sin/transgression entered the human race when Adam disobeyed God, SIN separated the human race from fellowship with God.**

Prior to this SIN, God fellowshiped freely with Man in the Garden. Prior to SIN, there was nothing that stood between us and a HOLY God.

Prior to Sin, man could approach God without any inferiority, condemnation or fear.

When SIN entered the, man hid himself from God.

Our Sin consciousness will keep us from coming to God, experiencing God and enjoying a life filled with God's plan for our life.



2. The Cross provides us with redemption from the Curse of the Law.

- a. **Galatians 3:13 (NKJV)** – *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Galatians 3:13 (NLT) – *But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.*

- b. **Jesus took our Sin, but He also took our curse – the penalty for our sin.**

c. **The curse included:**

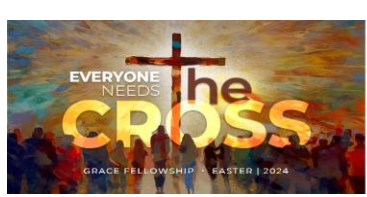
- Sickness
- Poverty and lack
- Weakness
- Failure
- Defeat from our enemies
- Confusion, anxiety and mental distress
- Fear and inferiority

Jesus took all of this upon himself – all these things entered the world when the CURSE came because of mans sin.

- d. **Sin positioned us FOR THE CURSE to work in our life.**

Redemption through the cross, re-positioned us for the BLESSING to flow in our life.

- Because Jesus took my curse, I am blessed.
- Instead of poverty – I receive His wealth.
- Instead of sickness, I receive His health – *by His stripes!*
- In place of my weakness, I have His strength.
- In place of my defeat, I have His victory.



3. The Cross Provides me with an Inheritance

- a. **Acts 26:18 (NKJV)** – *to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me*

Acts 26:18 (ABPE) – *That you will open their eyes, so that they will turn from the darkness to the light and from the authority of Satan to God; and they shall receive release from sins **and a portion** with The Holy Ones by the faith which is in me.*

- b. **Inheritance** – *what is obtained by an allotted portion; something that is inherited*

The assets that a loved one bequeaths to their loved ones when they pass away

The more a person has at the time of death - the more you receive as the heir.

- c. **JESUS, AS THE SON OF GOD IS THE HEIR OF GOD**

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NKJV) – *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has **appointed heir of all things**, through whom also He made the worlds;*

NOTE: Adam would have been an heir of God if he had not sinned.

Luke 3:38 (NKJV) – *the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God*

- d. **Through the Cross, God restored our Inheritance in Jesus.**

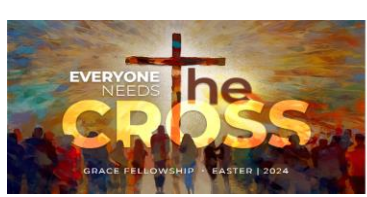
JOINT HEIRS

Romans 8:16-17 (NKJV) – *¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—**heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

Note: *The suffering here is – suffering for being identified as a child of God.*

Romans 8:17 (NLV) – *If we are children of God, we will receive everything He has promised us. We will share with Christ all the things God has given to Him. But we must share His suffering if we are to share His shining-greatness.*

Romans 8:17(PHILLIPS) – *All who follow the leading of God's Spirit are God's own sons. Nor are you meant to relapse into the old*



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slavish attitude of fear—you have been adopted into the very family circle of God and you can say with a full heart, “Father, my Father”. The Spirit himself endorses our inward conviction that we really are the children of God. Think what that means. If we are his children we share his treasures, and all that Christ claims as his will belong to all of us as well! Yes, if we share in his suffering we shall certainly share in his glory.

NOTE: *Everything the Father has, He was able to Give to Jesus as his rightful heir.*

When we RECEIVE Christ as savior;

When we Come into COMMUNION with Him – One with and in Him,

WE QUALIFY IN HIM TO BECOME – JOINT HEIRS WITH HIM.

Through Him – My position as an heir of God is restored.

My Inheritance is Restored.

Imagine – What the Father Has – IT’S MINE!

Ephesians 1:18 (NKJV) – *the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, Paul didn’t pray that we would have an inheritance – we have it in Christ – HE PRAYED THAT WE WOULD BE ENLIGHTENED TO KNOW – WHAT ARE THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF THE INHERITANCE THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED.*

Ephesians 1:18 (GNT) – *I ask that your minds may be opened to see his light, so that you will know what is the hope to which he has called you, how rich are the wonderful blessings he promises his people.*

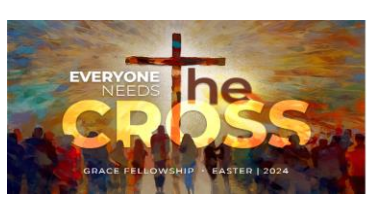
Colossians 3:24 (NKJV) – *Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.*

- e. **Through the Cross and the resurrection our future in heaven is secured.**

My Eternal future is SAFE – SAVED/SAFE!

I am HEAVEN READY when I die.

- *At the cross – my sin is dealt with.*
- *At the cross my righteousness is established in Jesus.*
- *Through the resurrection, my resurrection is secured.*



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- *Because HE LIVES – I LIVE – and WILL LIVE!*

Romans 10:8-11 (NKJV) – ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

BELIEVE = To put my confidence and trust in Him:

- *Trusting that He took my sin.*
- *Trusting that He has forgiven me because of Christ.*
- *Trusting that I am declared righteous because of Jesus.*
- *I believe in my heart and confess with my mouth – I am saved.*

II. All have Sinned.

A. We must face it all have sinned.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) – *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

The reason everyone needs the cross is because everyone has sinned.

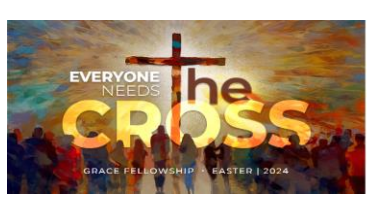
B. The Confusion

1. People struggle with needing a savior.

Needing someone to pay for their sin.

This is especially the case when you compare yourself to others and determine that you live as good as they live.

To admit that I need a savior is to admit that I am living a horrible sinful lifestyle. This is not how it is!



2. Our classification as SINNER has nothing to do with our personal sin list.

Some people's sin list is larger than others.

Regardless if I ever committed a sin on my sin list, I would still be a SINNER in the presence of God. WHY?

Romans 5:12 (NKJV) – *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned*

I am born into this world a sinner because I come from my earthly father Adam. (We are all related to him).

No one can justify themselves in the presence of God without a change of status – SINNER to SAINT!

Your sin list doesn't matter – some will have more sins than others, this doesn't matter – WE ARE ALL SINNERS until we are BORN-AGAIN – as children of God!

3. Our citizenship must change:

Colossians 1:13 (NKJV) – *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,*

Colossians 1:13 (GNT) – *He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safe into the kingdom of his dear Son,*

When we get saved, we change kingdoms!

Philippians 3:20-21 (NKJV) – ²⁰*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*



4. There is only one thing that could change my citizenship.

Only one thing that could change my status of sinner to saint.

The Cross – At the cross, my SIN was forgiven, cleansed, atoned for, wiped out.

My spiritual attachment to ADAM was replaced with a new spiritual attachment to JESUS:

<p><i>In ADAM – I am identified as a TRANSGRESSOR like him. In JESUS – I am identified as the RIGHTEOUS – like Him.</i></p>

This is why everyone needs the Cross!

C. At the Cross:

My sin is paid for – paid in full.

I am redeemed by the purchase price of Jesus blood from SIN and the penalty of sin.

I am brought back into right standing with God.

I am forgiven, cleansed, and re-positioned in Christ as a child of God.

I am a joint heir with Jesus.

I am prepared for heaven.

I am qualified for the blessings of heavens flow in my life on earth.

I am in covenant with God, through the blood of Jesus.

I have HIS name working on my behalf.



If I sin, Jesus is at the right hand of the Father making intercession daily on my behalf.

I am a victor, more than a conqueror and blessed – because greater is He that is in me NOW than he that is in this world.

III. Closing:

A. There's room at the cross

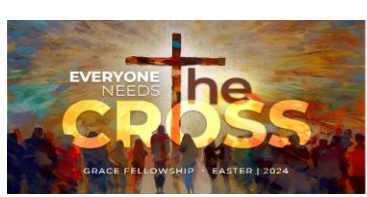
The cross upon which Jesus died.
Is a shelter in which we can hide.
And its grace so free is sufficient for me.
And deep is its fountain as wide as the sea.

There's room at the cross for you.
There's room at the cross for you.
Though millions have come, there's still room for one.
Yes there's room at the cross for you.

B. Glory to His name

Down at the cross,
Where my savior died
Down where for cleansing
From sin I cried
There to my heart
Was the blood applied
Glory to His name

I am so wondrously
Saved from my sin
Jesus so sweetly
Abides within
There at the cross
Where He took me in
Glory to His name



Singin' glory to His name
Glory to His name
There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name

C. Nothing but the blood of Jesus

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain: O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.