

FMHTY, Pt 9—The CROSS(MT 27:51)

>>If I askd U: “Wht’s the univrsal symbol of Chr faith?”—of crse,—U’d say: **CROSS**

>The crss adorns chchbldgs thruout wrld

*Pilgrims march thru the streets of

Jeru every Easter carrying a cross

*Chr’s wear crosses arnd their necks

*& get thm tattooed on their bodies

>>**But the Q is: “WHY?”** Wht did J **DO** on the cross tht’s **SO IMPT??**

>>>>**In a series entitled--FMHTY**

*The Lrd’s been speaking to my heart ab the centrality/beauty of the cross

*I want to shar sme of tht with U tdy

I-PASSAGE 2 COR 5:21 [READY??]

A.The “**cross**” was one of **THE most brutal ways** to put a prsn to death

- 1.It was **not invented** by the Romans
- 2.But it was **perfected** by thm

B. They crucified **1000’s** of pple a yr

- 1.**BUT**—whn they crucified **LJC**—they enterd into **Gd’s supern’l plan for the ages...**

2. **BEC**—LJ was **NOT** yur **average prsn!**

C.2 Cr 5:21—"Gd mde Hm who had no sin

1. &—the "**Him**" here = "**LJC**"

2. & this is the Bble's unbroken claim

*Tht whn He lived here on earth

*& whn Rns nailed hm to the crss

*J was a prsn who "**had no sin**"

3. Heb 4:15—"J was tempted in all ways just as we are, yet without sin"

Ill: Jn 8:46 (J to enemies)-"Whch one of U can prove me guilty of ANY sin?" **no ansr**

4. **B says** J frequented the Tem in Jer

*But tht He nvr offrd a sac fr sin thr

***BEC—He never needed to!**

5. **B says:** J prayd "Fthr frgive *thm*"

*But He nvr prayd "Fthr, frgive Me"

***BEC--He never needed to!**

ILL: & this is wht the **VB** was all abt

*Gd gve J a **body** w/no sinful nature

*So J cld live a **life** w/no sinful acts

D.2 Cr 5:21—"Gd mde Hm who had no sin

[WATCH] to become sin on our behalf

1. In a divine transaction tht U/I will never fully understand...

*As J hung on the cross...

*Gd Fthr took sins of the entire wrld
 *Yur sins/my sins/everybdy's sins
 *& "transferred thm" onto Jesus
 *& Gd was Able to do this—bec--J
HAD no sins of his own !!

2. Is 53:6-“All of us lke sheep hve gone
 astray; each of us has turned to
 his own way. & the Lrd laid on
HIM (LJC) the sins of us all”

3. 1 Pt 2:24-“He Himself (LJ) bore our
 sins in His body on the cross”

[NOW—whn a prsn BELIEVES THIS

*& decides to RELY on this transfer
 of their sins onto J + NOTHING

*As their 1-&-only pymnt fr sin

[Want U to see wht thy get(bc of crss)

E.#1-Get a new legal status bfre Gd

1.2 Cr 5:21-“Gd mde Hm who had no
 sin to become sin on our behalf so
 tht we might become righteous
in Gd's sight thru Him(J)”

2. Rm 3:24-“we've been JUSTIFIED
 thru the redemption tht's in JC”

3. Rm 5:1-“Thrfre, we've been JUSTIFIED

by faith (ie, our faith in LJC)..."

4. "**Justified**" is a courtroom word
*Mns "to be declared not guilty"
5. Whn we're "justified" it mns tht Gd
agrees to see us as (2 Cor 5:21)
"righteous in His sight" fr all etr'y
6. This is the **great, great news of B**
7. Gd dismisses all chrges-w/prjudice
***CASE IS CLOSED**

***There's NO Double JEOPARDY**

**Sorry-I've been watchng too many
Law & Order RE-RUNS**

8. **PT**: THIS bcomes our legal status
in courtroom of hvn—**FOREVER!!**
SAY: "Why **CAN'T** I get this same thing
thru Budda/Confus/Mohmd/Ghandi
A: Lots of reasons why—but a BIG ONE

*Is tht they weren't available to hve
yur sins transferred onto them

***BEC** they had sins of their own!

*Whch--as we just saw--**I DIDN'T!**

- F. #2-Get a new certainty ab eter destiny
 1. As J hung on the cross, He said to
the thief hanging next to him

2. Lk 23:43-“Truly, I say to U, TODAY,
U shall be with Me in Paradise”

3. & J was ABLE to say tht to him

*Bec of the wrk He was prforming
fr him right there on the cross

[LET'S REM WHT THT WRK WAS!]

4.Col 2:13-“Whn we were dead in our
sins, Gd forgave us fr all our sins,
& cancelled the DEBT agst us,

by nailing it to [SAY] THE CROSS

ILLUT: The bank has no pwr over us whn
we're “debt-free” financially

ILLUST: & hell has no pwr over us whn
we're “debt-free” spiritually

5 Rm 8:1-“Thre's now no cndmnation
(ever) to those who're in JC”

6. Bec our “sin debt” to Gd is “PIF”!!

*It's not NAILED to US anymore

*It's nailed to the cross of J

7. & bec of this—just like tht thief

*The day WE leave this earth..

*We'll be in Paradise w/LJC too

K.#3-Get cesation of hstilities btw us/Gd

1.B says (Rm 5:10) says tht pple

- outside of JC are “**enemies** of Gd”
3. Eph 4:18 says tht pple outside of JC are “**alienated** frm the life of Gd”
4. Jn 3:36 says tht the Gd’s wrath for sin “rests/sits” on ple outside of JC
5. This “**state of hostility**” exists...
 *Not bec Gd’s love *desires it*
 *But bc Gd’s holiness *demands it*
6. **BUT PTL**--whn we as snnrs embrace J’s wrk on the cross fr us...Rm 5:1-
 “...we have [**SAY**] **PEACE W/GD.**
THRU our LJC”
7. Col 1:20-“J reconciled us to Gd, hving made [**SAY**] **PEACE** (btw us & Gd) thru the blood of His **cross**”
8. Can we grasp the greatness of this?
 *No matter **what** U’ve done
 *No matter **how bad** U’ve been
 *No mtr how **big & confirmed**
an enemy of Gd U once were
 *When U come to the **CROSS...**
 *The “war” betw U & Gd ends!
 *Gd dclares a “pce trty”btw U/hm
9. & evn it Satan self dug up yur sins

*& stood at the Gates of Heaven

*& shwd thm to ancls whn U arrived

*& accused U of being unfit to enter

10.The ancls wld merely brush hm aside

*As they pt to U & cry aloud(Rm 5:1):

*“Therefore, having been justified by

faith, this mn/wmn has peace

w /Gd thru the LJC” HALLELUJAH

G.#4-Get new recptivity to thgs of Gd

1. Eph 2:1-“All of us are born sp'lly
dead in our trespasses & sins”

2. Eph 2:4-5-“But Gd, being rich in
mercy[WATCH NOW]...evn when
we were dead in our sins...He
made us alive in JC

ILLUST: ME AS YOUNG CHR--

*To Bob: "This is so great—it's like
Gd's transmitting a signal to me"

*Suddenly Bible/sp. truth come alive

*Sdnlly I see/feel Gd's prsnce evywhre

*Bob: "Gd's always been transmitting

*He: “It's just tht up to now--yur

"receiver"'s been broken!!"

A: Whn we cme to the crss--Gd fixes this

L. **#5**-Get a new fam relationship with Gd

1.Rm 5:2-bec of the **cross**—we **now stand** in a gracious position w /Gd

2.Jst wht is this “**gracious position?**”

3.Jn 1:12-“To all who receivd Hm, to thm Gd gave the right, to become **[SAY] c’ren of Gd**”

4. Rm 8:16-“The Spirit of Gd Hmself bears witness to our spirits, tht we are the **[SAY] c’ren of Gd**”

5.Eph 1:5-“Gd predestined us in love to be **His c’ren** thru JC”

6.“**Gracious psition**”= now **Gd’s c’ren**

IL:“Thot we’reall G’s c’rn-all Gd’s crtures

AP: But only “IN JC” do we bcme His c’rn

[If don’t under-get pt 2 of this series]

M.SUMMARIZE--BEC OF CROSS--WE

1.We bcme rght’ous in Gd’s sght frevr

2. Our eternal destiny is settled frevr

3.We get an “peace trty” w /Gd frever

4.Our sp receiver gets fixed frevr

5. We become a child of Gd frever

SO WHAT?

A.Thre’s 1 mre great thng we get bc **crss**

B. Eph 2:18—"Thru Him(LJ), we hve [SAY]
ACCESS in one Spirit to the Fthr

C.Eph 3:12—"In whm (LJ), we hve boldnss
& confident access to Gd"

ILLUST: I was 12 yrs old when JFK elected

*One of the thngs I rem so vividly=son
(JFKJr) playing in the Oval Office

*Sitting on the president's lap

*Walking & holding the pres's hand

APPL: My gosh, folks—this is "ACCESS"

*& he "got it" 'cause he was FAMILY

D.B says...this is exctly wht U/I hve as F's

E. & B says tht Gd wants us to use it

F. Hb 4:16:"Let us thrfore come boldly to
Gd's throne of grace tht we may get

mercy & grace to help in time of need

G. 1 Pt 5:7—"Cast all your cares upon Gd,
bec He cares for U"

ILLUST: U knw—I'm 67 yrs old

*& I honestly used to think

*Tht when I reached this pt in life

*My troubles wld pretty much be ovr

*BUT U knw wht? It's not true! In fact,
actually--the opposite is true!

- *I've got more problems now
- **More Satanic opposition now
- **More pain & heartache now
- **Thn I ever had whn I was ynger
- *I hve a son going thru a divorce
- *I hve 8 g'cn each w/own unique needs
- *I hve a svrly disabled dau tht I wrry
wht's gna hpn to her whn I'm gone
- APPL: & this ACCESS to Gd I hve in JC....
- *I'm using it far more now thn evr
- *Getng on my knees&cryng out to Gd
& begng Him for mercy & grace
- *Casting all my cares on Him, bec
they're too heavy fr me to carry
- H. & I do this w /utter confidence in two
thngs the B tells me about the Lord
- #1-(1 P 5:7)-that "He cares for me"
- #2-(Eph 1:19)-tht He can do smethng
my burdens "acc to the imeasurable
greatness of His pwr tht's at work in
us who believe"
- >>>>Thnk Gd for the benefits/beauty/
benevolence of the cross
- >& I sure hope cross is active in yur life