

Jesus' greatest act was to give His life *for* the sins of world (John 3:16), something He predicted to His disciples three times (Matthew 16:21-23, 17:22-23, 20:17-19)!

The Passion Week begins with the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, prophesied in Zechariah 9:9 and fulfilled in Matthew 21:1-17, and culminates with the crucifixion of Jesus our Lord.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CROSS

Isaiah 53:1-12 *...and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all...*

1. Jesus was put to death on the Cross FOR our sins.

- Isaiah 53:4-6 *Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by His wounds we are healed. (Also 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 12:2-3)*

2. The Cross was an active demonstration of God's love for us even while we were dead and separated from God because of our sins.

- Romans 5:6-9 *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly... But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 8:32; Hebrews 12:2)*

3. There was an exchange at the Cross. He became our sin and by believing and obeying Him we are declared innocent and given a right standing before God.

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 *God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (Numbers 21:8-9 and John 3:14-15)*

4. Christ's death on the Cross was a permanent sacrifice. He did not have to offer His life year after year, as the Law required. All the Old Testament sacrifices were a shadow pointing to the real sacrifice for sin, God's Son.

- Hebrews 10:11-14 *Day after day every priest stands and*

performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time He waits for His enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. (Hebrews 9:25-28)

5. The Cross restored man's relationship with God.

- Colossians 1:21-22 *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies... But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)*

6. The Cross destroyed the power of the devil for all who believe.

- Colossians 2:13-15 *And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. (Revelation 12:10-12)*

7. The blood of Christ freed us to serve God with a clear conscience.

- Hebrews 9:14 *How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! (1 John 1:7)*



Scan the code and read more about the Cross and the Blood Covenant. For more information about Christian Life Center, A Foursquare Church, go to our website at DiscipleshipDevelopment.org.

Next week, *The Power of the Resurrection*