

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CROSS

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

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)!

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.* (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 in sin and separated from God.

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. The Cross was the great exchange! 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 *...because by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.* (Hebrews 9:25-28)

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

John 11:25-26 *Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

1. The Resurrection is the foundation of our Faith.

1 Peter 1:21 *Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.* (1 Corinthians 15:13-22)

If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not... his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead. — Timothy Keller

2. Resurrection proves that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Romans 1:3-4 *...regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.* (1 Timothy 3:16)

3. Through the Resurrection we know we have forgiveness of sins.

Romans 4:23-25 *He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.* (Romans 10:9-10)

4. Resurrection is the certainty of Eternal Life, a living hope.

1 Peter 1:3-5 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

5. Because of Resurrection I have confidence that Christ will complete His saving work in me.

Hebrews 7:23-25 *...but because Jesus lives*

The Cross Continued

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..., 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)

The Resurrection Continued

forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. (Romans 8:33-35; Philippians 1:6)

6. The Resurrection gives us confidence and the ability to serve Him in victory.

1 Corinthians 15:54-58 *...But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.* (Romans 8:37-39)

7. Because Christ's Resurrection, I can believe Him to raise me from deadness and to everlasting life.

Romans 8:10-11 *But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.* (2 Corinthians 4:14; Philippians 3:10)

