

# 1 • THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CROSS

John 12:20-24 ...Jesus answered, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.



Christ's greatest act in all of creation was to give His life for the entire world (John 3:16). He foretold this to His disciples in Matthew 16:21-23, 17:22-23, 20:17-19.

The Passion Week began with the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, prophesied in Zechariah 9:9 and fulfilled in Matthew 21:7-9, and culminated with the Crucifixion of Jesus our Lord.

Jesus then cleanses the Temple (the first time is in John 2:13-17) and children praise God in the Temple area, igniting fierce opposition from the Priests (Matthew 21:12-17). This begins the week of teaching and the preparation for Passover where He institutes the Last Supper, now known as Communion.

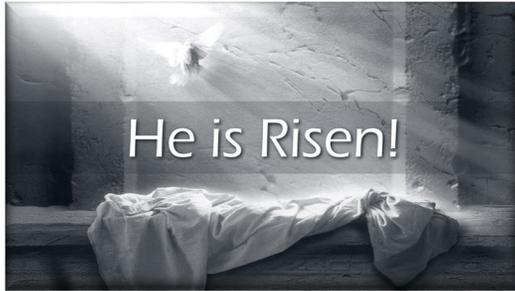
1. **On the Cross, Jesus was put to death for our sins.** Although we have all sinned (Romans 3:23) and broken God's Law, He took the punishment for us.
  - Isaiah 53:4-6 *Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. 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.*
2. **The Cross was a demonstration of God's great love for sinful, fallen humanity.** Christ fulfilled the plan of salvation even before we existed, from the beginning of time! (Revelation 13:8)
  - Romans 5:6-9 *You see, at just the right time, when we were*

*still powerless (in our sin), Christ died for the ungodly... But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners and apart from, Christ died for us.*

3. **There was an exchange at the Cross. Jesus became our sin and we were credited with His Righteousness.** We have been declared innocent even though we were the guilty party!
  - 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. (We would be made acceptable to Him and placed in a right relationship with Him by His gracious lovingkindness.)*
4. **Through the Cross, we are reconciled with God.** We can now come boldly before His Throne (Hebrews 4:14-16).
  - Colossians 1:21-22 *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 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.*
5. **Our sins were nailed to the Cross and our enemy, the devil and accuser, was forever defeated.**
  - Colossians 2:13-15 *...He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*
6. **Because of the Cross, Christ secured eternal salvation for all who believe in Him as our Savior.**
  - Hebrews 9:12 *Christ went once for all into the Holy of Holies of Heaven, into the Presence of God, and through His own blood, He secured eternal salvation for all who personally believe in Him as Savior!*
7. **His blood has purchased people from every nation and from every culture.**
  - Revelation 5:9-10 *They sang a new song: "...for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."*

## 2 • THE POWER OF HIS 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?"*



The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the central message of the New Testament -- it doesn't make sense without it! Therefore the New Testament was written from that perspective.

The Gospels tell us a lot about the remarkable things that Jesus said and did during his three years of ministry. However, the New Testament's emphasis is on His Death and Resurrection which are referred to about 100 times.

Our relationship with the Living Christ, His presence and transforming power, the final defeat of evil and death (Colossians 2:13-15), and our future hope are all related to the Resurrection.

Timothy Keller, author of "The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism," says it well: "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 whether or not you like His teaching but whether or not He rose from the dead."

### 1. **The Resurrection of Christ 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)*

### 2. **The Resurrection was proof positive that Jesus was the Son of God, even as He had declared.**

- 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.*

### 3. **Through the Cross we have forgiveness of sins and through the Resurrection we have been made right in God's sight.**

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

### 4. **The Resurrection gives us confidence that Christ will complete the work He began in us.**

- Hebrews 7:23-25 *...because Jesus lives 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. (Philippians 1:6)*

### 5. **Because of Resurrection we can live life with purpose.**

- 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)*

### 6. **Since Christ rose from the grave, and His Spirit dwells in me, I have life... Today!**

- Romans 8:10-11 *...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)*

### 7. **Because of Christ's Resurrection we have an Eternal inheritance reserved in Heaven.**

- 1 Peter 1:3-5 *...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. (1 Peter 1:3-5)*

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*Scriptures are taken (adapted) from the NKJ and AM versions*