

THE CROSS
APRIL 7, 2023, GOOD FRIDAY

INTRO: To some, the Cross is a piece of jewelry; an icon used for worship; an amulet to ward off evil spirits. What is the Cross to us?

What Paul Said (1 COR. 1:23-24)

- 1.) Offensive to Jews. Stumbling block (Gr. trap, or snare).
- 2.) Foolishness to Greeks. Foolishness (Gr. Moria), English, Moron). They viewed the cross as moronic foolishness.
- 3.) The power and wisdom of God to believers.
 - A.) Power, because by the Cross Satan's kingdom was destroyed.
 - B.) Wisdom, because by it, God outwitted Satan (1 COR. 2:6-8 NIV).

The True Message (MK. 15:20-39)

- 1.) Torment (V20). Crucify, pain and death are synonymous. Excruciating comes from two words: ex, meaning out of; cruciate, meaning cross. Crucifixion was so painful that it came to be associated with whatever caused excruciating pain.
- 2.) Tragedy (V26-32). His own people circled, taunted, mocked, ridiculed, and blasphemed their heaven-sent Messiah. This tragedy is seen in two ways:
 - A.) The Jewish leader's attitude toward Jesus. He came to redeem them, fulfill the law and reconcile them to God, but they rejected Him.
 - B.) It reveals the true condition of the unregenerate heart. **EPH. 2:1-3** Religion can't change the heart, only Christ can. One's reaction to the Cross reveals the condition of the heart.
- 3.) Transfer (V33-37). During this time of darkness, a transfer took place. Our sins were transferred from us to Christ (**IS. 53:6, 2 COR. 5:21**).
 - A.) He took our place, died our death, suffered our hell, and paid our price. Everyone's sin-debt, He paid.
 - B.) Those who receive Him, receive a transfer of His righteousness (**ROM. 4:21-25**). In Christ, God sees us justified, holy, righteous, blameless, and sinless.
 - C.) Those who reject Christ remain under the wrath of God and are needlessly on the path to eternal separation and suffering.
- 4.) Triumph (V37-38). The crucifixion of Jesus signaled the defeat of man's three main enemies.
 - A.) Satan (**HEB. 2:14-15**); Sin (**ROM. 5:19**); Separation (**EPH. 2:11-14**).
- 5.) Testimony (V39). The Cross is a message of the greatest love story every told (**JOHN 15:13, ROM. 5:8**).
 - A.) The Roman soldier was convicted and converted. The criminal next to him cried out for salvation
 - B.) The testimony of the cross provides salvation for every member of Adam and Eve's fallen family.

Conclusion:

The Cross can be a piece of jewelry, religious icon, an amulet, a stumbling block, foolishness, or it can be the power and wisdom of God that can save any sin-sick soul. The question is, what is the Cross to you?