

The Cross

John 19:17

And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

Introduction

1. Thoughts concerning the Cross

- a. Some think the cross is used to ward off vampires, or other bad things, so they make the sign of the cross when hear of something bad
- b. Some think the cross is good luck, so they hang it around their neck or dangle it from their ears, or perhaps tattoo it on their body
- c. Others see the cross only as a Christian symbol, with no real meaning

2. The Cross

- a. Is a symbol of great suffering, sacrifice on one hand, and on the other hand, it is a symbol of life, deliverance, Salvation, forgiveness, Grace, Mercy, Love, and Hope
- b. In itself is meaningless, but when you consider that Christ hung on the Cross for our sins, then that Cross become importance, and the importance comes from Jesus who hung there
- c. Is not something we wear for good luck, but symbolically, at the foot of the Cross is where we bow to receive Christ as our Savior, and symbolically it is the place where we cry out to Jesus for forgiveness of sin

3. So, today, we will consider Christ and the Cross in this message today

I. The Cross stands at the center of the Bible

A. Everything in the Old Testament pointed to the Cross

1. Genesis 3:15

15) And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Note v15 in the Amplified

And I will put enmity (open hostility) Between you and the woman, And between your seed (offspring) and her Seed; He shall [fatally] bruise your head, And you shall [only] bruise His

heel.

- a. This hostility with satan started before man sinned, but it involved God not man when satan rebelled against, which insights are recorded

- i. In Isaiah 14:12-15

12) How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15) Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

- ii. In Ezekiel 28, we get another insight into Lucifer, who was perfect before God, but he was lifted up with pride because of his beauty, and he rebelled against God.

- b. Now, this hostility is also between man and our adversary satan

- i. Man was created to have fellowship with God, and we see God in Genesis 3:8-9 coming to the garden to walk with Adam and Eve (Nlt)

8) When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. 9) Then the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

- 1) It was natural for Adam to not coming running to God when he heard him coming

- 2) So God cried out to Adam, "Where are you?"

Note: May I say that God already knew what had happened, but Adam had to face his sin. God knows who we are. God knows that we have sinned, but we have to face our sin. We can never find forgiveness of sin, or a way back into the presence of God until we acknowledge that we have sinned.

- 3) Adam's sin came to light when Adam declared he was naked, and God wanted to know who told him he was naked, then God asked, "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?"

Note: There it is! There it is for all of us! We have eaten of the fruit of sin, and we are uncomfortable in the presence of God, so we hide ourselves with drugs, alcohol, work, pleasure, etc, anything that will keep us from facing the fact that we are lost without God.

- ii. God gave man the earth Psalms 115:16

The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men

- iii. Satan desired what man had, and satan desired to be worshipped, so he disrupted our fellowship with God by enticing Eve to sin who enticed Adam
 - iv. This pronouncement of enmity between satan and the seed of Eve is speaking directly to the events of the cross
 - 1) The heel of Jesus, seed of the woman, would be bruised by satan when Jesus died on the cross
 - 2) Jesus death on the cross
 - a) The death of an innocent man
 - b) Since Jesus was an innocent man, death could not hold Him
 - c) So on the third day, Jesus rose again with the keys to death, hell, and the grave, and in that act, He fatally crushed the head of satan
 - 3) So satan has turned his anger toward humanity to try and destroy us, but our Savior, who died on the Cross, will come again to established His kingdom, not just in our hearts, but upon this earth for a thousand years and then on the new earth for eternity
 - v. So, this adversary of ours
 - 1) Who accuses the brethren according to Revelations 12:10 will be cast down into the bottomless pit for a thousand years
 - 2) Who goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour according to 1 Peter 5:8 will be in the Lake of Fire for eternity
 - 3) Has lost his authority, for Christ has given us authority
 - a) To tread upon scorpions and serpents according to Jesus in Luke 10:19
 - b) To bind and loose on earth what is legally bound and loosed in heaven according to Jesus in Matthew 16:19 and Matthew 18:18
 - c) We, the Church have been given the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven to do Jesus' work here on earth, which sets us at odds against the serpent who deceived Eve in the Garden
2. Abraham offering Isaac as a Sacrifice, but finding a ram caught in the bushes our a substitute offering points to the Cross where Jesus became our substitute, our sacrificial lamb who died in our place

3. The Passover lamb which was instituted when Israel left Egypt pointed to Jesus on the Cross who died so we could be free from the slavery of sin
4. The pattern of worship in the wilderness where they constantly offered sacrifices so they could come have forgiveness of sin and come into the presence of God points to Jesus who died once for everyone as the Supreme sacrifice for all mankind for the purpose of setting us free from sin for according to Hebrews 10
 - a. v4...The blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.
 - b. v12...So Jesus offered Himself as our sacrifice and set down at the right hand of God
 - c. v10...So we are sanctified through Jesus offering His body once for all
 - d. v14...So He has perfected for ever those of us that are sanctified through His offering of His body once for all
5. The Old Testament Prophets spoke of Jesus and His suffering
 - a. Psalms 16:10, David declares

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

- i. David is prophesying of Jesus' death and resurrection
- ii. David is also prophesying that Jesus would bring his soul out of hell
- b. Psalms 55 speaks of a friend, Judas, who fellowshiped with Him, who had broke bread with Him who would betray Him
- c. Isaiah 53
 - i. v4...He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:
 - ii. v5...He was wounded for our transgressions,
 - ii. v5...He was bruised for our iniquities:
 - iii. v5...The chastisement of our peace was upon him;
 - iv. v5...With his stripes we are healed.
 - v. v6...The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.
 - vi. v7...He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth:

vii. v7...He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

viii. v8...He was cut off out of the land of the living:

ix. v8...For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

x. v9...He made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

xi. v10...He was bruised and made an offering for sin

xii. v11...He bore our iniquities

xiii. v12...He poured out his soul unto death:

xiv...v12...He was numbered with the transgressors (He hung between two thieves)

xv...v12...He bore our sins

xvi. v12...He made intercession for the transgressors.

Note: The Old Testament pointed to His death, to the pain of the Cross, to His suffering, and the hope of humanity is in the death of Christ on the Cross

B. Everything since the Cross points back to the Cross

1. We look back to Jesus to find deliverance from sin

2. Acts 2:32-33

32) This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33) Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

3. Acts 3:18

But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

4. Acts 4:10-13

10) Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11) This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other

name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

5. Hebrews 5:9

And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Note: Even today, we look back to Jesus, for He is the One Who save us from our sins. There is salvation in no other, for there is no other way to heaven, except through Jesus Christ.

II. The Cross is symbolic of suffering and victory

A. Let us see the suffering of Christ

1. He had been beaten
2. He had been without sleep
3. Now, in John 19:17, we see Jesus carrying his own cross, and we must consider the pain caused to the back and the shoulders of Jesus as He carried this wooden cross with it splinters
4. He was nailed to the cross
5. The cross was raised and dropped into a hole about 2 to 3 feet deep which would cause the body of Jesus to sink with his raw back against the wooden cross and his hands and feet being hailed by nails
6. To breathe, He would have to raise Himself, which would cause great pain, but here he hung for you and I because He loves us
7. Much of His suffering was due to the fact that He who never knew sin became sin our our Scapegoat as He drank the cup of human suffering for all mankind
8. Added to His misery and pain was the Father turning away because He could not look upon sin

B. The Cross is a symbol of victory

1. Jesus went to the cross, they did not force Him, for He could have called 12 legions of angels, which was 72,000 angels to come to His aid according to Jesus in Matthew 26:53

Note: One angel killed 185,000 in Assyrians in one night, so 12,000 angels could have slain 2,220,000,000 which would have been sufficient to rescue Jesus from the mob in Gethsemane

2. Jesus gave His life, they did not take it
3. Matthew Henry said that ancient writer wrote of this placed called Golgatha, the place of the skull
 - a. They said that Adam was buried here, and that this was the place of his skull
 - i. Here, death had triumphed over the first Adam
 - ii. Here the second Adam would triumph over death
 - b. Here on this mountain, in the land Moriah,
 - i. Abraham offered up Isaac, and the ram was a ransom for Isaac.
 - ii. Here, on this same mountain, Jesus is offered as a ramson for you and I
 - c. Here on this mountain they crucified Jesus
 - i. Jesus is bound to the altar for our sins
 - ii. His ear is nailed to God's door-post signified that He would serve God's will forever
 - iii. Here, Jesus was lifted up as the brazen serpent, hung between heaven and earth
 - iv. Here, Jesus' hands are stretched out to invite and embrace us
 - d. Here on this cross He hung
 - i. Yet taking time to provide for His mother to live in the house of John the Beloved
 - ii. Yet having mercy enough to invite one of the thieves to Paradise with Him
 - e. Here on this hill hangs the beloved of the Father, who from eternity past had been in the bosom of the Father, but is now bleeding, struggling, dying because of God's love for you and I
4. Here on this Cross, on this hill called Golgatha, Jesus fulfilled Scriptures
 - a. v28...When He knew that all things to this point had been accomplished that the Scriptures might be fulfilled, Jesus said I thirst
 - b. They gave him vinegar to drink mixed with hyssop water
 - c. Jesus then cried "It is finished," bowed His head and gave up the ghost

- i. The Greek word for this is "Tetelestai"
- ii. He cried out "Tetelestai," It Is Finished, as a cry of Triumph
 - 1) It is finished,
 - a) The malice and enmity of his persecutors had now done their worst;
 - b) He had receive the last indignity in the vinegar they gave him, and he said, "This is the last; I am now going out of their reach, where the wicked cease from troubling."
 - 2) It is finished, that is, the counsel and commandment of his Father concerning his sufferings were now fulfilled, and he had been careful that ever jot and tittle was fulfilled
 - 3) It is finished, all the types and prophecies of the Old Testament, which pointed at the sufferings of the Messiah, were accomplished and answered.
 - 4) It is finished, the ceremonial law is abolished, because Jesus as the Supreme Sacrifice is now offered, so all the symbolic sacrifices will be put aside because the veil is now torn between the holiest of holies and the holy place
 - 5) It is finished...Every man through Christ can now enter the throne room of heaven
 - 6) It is finished...Sin is finished, and an end is made of transgression because Jesus has brought to us an everlasting righteousness.
 - 7) It is finished for the Lamb of God is now sacrificed to take away the sin of the world, and it is done
 - 8) It is finished...His sufferings are now finished, both those of his soul and those of his body.
 - 9) It is finished...The storm is over, the worst is past;
 - 10) It is finished...All his pains and agonies are at an end, and he is just going to Paradise to enter into the joy set before him.
 - 11) It is finished...Life is now completed, He can breathe his last for He has finished His course, and ran His race
 - 12) It is finished...The work of man's redemption and salvation is now completed,
 - 13) It is finished...The justice of God is satisfied

14) It is finished...The fatal blow is given to the power of Satan

15) It is finished...Through Christ, a fountain of grace is opened that shall forever flow,

16) It is finished...A foundation of peace and happiness is opened which will never Fail

17) It is finished...Everything is paid in full...Now we can come to the Father through Christ being forgiven of our sins to live eternally in the presence of God

5. Here on this hill they opened His side, by piercing Him

a. When Adam's side was opened, God brought forth a bride for Adam

b. Jesus' side is opened, and a bride for Christ, called the church steps forth

c. They pierced His side

i. Opening a window to the Lord's heart so we can see His love

ii. Bringing forth blood and water signifying that we can partake of the Lord's justification and sanctification with

a) Blood for remission and water for regeneration

b. Blood for atonement and water for purification

Conclusion

1. Ephesians 2:16...We are reconciled to God through the Cross

And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

2. Colossians 1:20...We have peace with God through the Cross

And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

3. Finally, we must die out to self, if we are going to truly follow Christ, signified by taking up the cross

a. Luke 14:27

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple

b. Luke 9:23

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

c. Mark 10:21

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me

d. Mark 8:34

And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

4. What a price was paid on the Cross for you and I, and what a victory we are able to share as we come together with Christ at the Cross of Calvary