

Program Notes

TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

6:00 p.m.	Musical Worship
6:20 p.m.	Teaching Segment 1
7:20 p.m.	Area Highlight
7:35 p.m.	Break
7:50 p.m.	Teaching Segment 2
8:50 p.m.	Communion
9:10 p.m.	Break
9:25 p.m.	Teaching Segment 3
10:25 p.m.	Offering Highlight/Prayer
10:45 p.m.	Break
11:00 p.m.	Teaching Segment 4
11:55 p.m.	Musical Worship
12:00 a.m.	Dismiss

BOTTLED WATER ONLY is allowed in the Worship Room. Please do not bring food or other types of beverages into the Worship Room. Beverages will be available in the lobby for attendees during the break time.

RESTROOMS are located in the lobby. Additional men's and women's restrooms are located in the Modular Building area outside the lobby to the right as you exit.

SO AS NOT TO DISTRACT FROM THE STUDY, please turn all cell phones and pagers to the "silent" or "off" position while in the Worship Room. We realize many parents need to keep in touch with baby sitters, but if you must use your phone during the evening, please go into the lobby before calling.

BIBLES are available free of charge in the lobby. If you do not have your personal Bible, please keep the Bible you receive as our gift. David will be teaching from the New International Version (NIV). All scriptures are from the NIV unless otherwise noted.

SECRET CHURCH RESOURCES are available for purchase in the lobby before and after the sessions and during each break. Following this evening's teaching, a four-CD audio set of the sessions will be available for purchase for \$29. A two-DVD set of videos of the sessions will be available for \$39 in the coming weeks.

ONLINE RESOURCES, including free MP3 audio downloads of the teaching sessions, Quicktime (MOV) videos of the teaching sessions, study and prayer guides in Portable Document Format (PDF) and links to persecuted church resources are available at the Secret Church web site, www.secretchurch.org.

Beyond These Walls...

We're glad you've decided to attend tonight's Secret Church meeting. But even if nobody showed up, it would still be worth the effort. Actually, this Bible study will hopefully benefit far more people outside this room than those present. Here's why...

Tonight we will be recording the teaching sessions; and in the coming months, these sessions will be transcribed and translated into many different languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Hindi and Arabic. The foreign-language versions of Secret Church will be available online as translations are completed, but that is just the beginning.

Most Christ-followers around the world don't have access to seminaries or Bible colleges. In fact, most parts of the world have no formal Christian teaching at all. Dr. Platt will be leading additional Secret Church studies, creating thirty to forty hours of Bible teaching on the Old and New Testaments, Covenants, Disciple-Making, Bible Study and Teaching and other topics. We will then load all Secret Church teachings onto iPods® for distribution worldwide. These sessions together will comprise a "seminary on a stick"—a mini-course in solid Bible knowledge accessible to anyone.

During the evening we will be taking an offering. All proceeds will directly support persecuted Christians worldwide through both ongoing ministry initiatives, as well as providing Secret Church Bible teaching materials in many native languages. Imagine a house-church leader in Asia or the Middle East now able to attend hours of Bible teaching classes as he plugs in an iPod® with Secret Church teaching in his own language. With your help, this is becoming a reality.

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

The Cruciality of the Cross

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.
(1 Corinthians 1:18, NIV)

Why We Are Here...

- To commemorate the historical reality of the cross.

“Everything in Christ astonishes me. His spirit overawes me, and his will confounds me. Between him and whoever else in the world there is no possible term of comparison... I search in vain to find the similar to Jesus Christ, or anything which can approach the gospel. Neither history, nor humanity, nor the ages, nor nature, offer me anything with which I am able to go compare it or to explain it. Here everything is extraordinary.”

Napoleon Bonaparte

- ▶ The cross is the centerpiece of all history.

“The whole world in comparison with the cross of Christ is one grand impertinence.”

Robert Leighton

- To explore the theological mystery of the cross.

“The doctrine of the death of Christ is the substance of the gospel.”

Stephen Charnock

- ▶ The cross is the determinant of our eternity.

“Christ’s blood is heaven’s key.”

Thomas Brooks

How We Must Come...

- We come to the cross with deep humility.
 - ▶ We need to remember the facts of the cross.

“He stripped off first one robe of honor and then another until, naked, He was fastened to the cross. There He emptied His inmost self, pouring out His lifeblood, giving Himself for all of us. Finally, they laid Him in a borrowed grave. How low was our dear Redeemer brought! How then, can we be proud? Stand at the foot of the cross and count the scarlet drops by which you have been cleansed. See the thorny crown and His scourged shoulders still gushing with the crimson flow of blood. See His hands and feet given up to the rough iron, and His whole self mocked and scorned. See the bitterness, the pangs, and the throes of inward grief show themselves in His outward frame. Hear the chilling shriek, ‘My God,

my God, why hast thou forsaken me?’ (Matthew 27:46). If you are not humbled in the presence of Jesus, you do not know Him. You were so lost that nothing could save you but the sacrifice of God’s only begotten Son. As Jesus stooped for you, bow in humility at His feet. A realization of Christ’s amazing love has a greater tendency to humble us than even a consciousness of our own guilt. Pride cannot live beneath the cross. Let us sit there and learn our lesson. Then let us rise and carry it into practice.”

Charles Spurgeon

- We come to the cross with desperate urgency.
 - ▶ We need to recover the foolishness of the cross.

“The nature of Christ’s salvation is woefully misrepresented by the present-day evangelist. He announces a Savior from Hell rather than a Savior from sin. And that is why so many are fatally deceived, for there are multitudes who wish to escape the Lake of fire who have no desire to be delivered from their carnality and worldliness.”

Arthur W. Pink

“To recover the old, authentic, biblical gospel, and to bring our preaching and practice back into line with it, is perhaps our most pressing present need.”

J.I. Packer

What We Can Expect...

- We will be confronted with the severity of our sin.

“Until you see the cross as that which is done by you, you will never appreciate that it is done for you.”

John Stott

*“Twas I that shed the sacred blood; I nailed him to the tree;
I crucified the Christ of God; I joined the mockery.*

*Of all that shouting multitude, I feel that I am one;
And in that din of voices rude I recognize my own.*

*Around the cross the throng I see, Mocking the Sufferer’s groan;
Yet still my voice it seems to be, As if I mocked alone.”*

Horatius Bonar

- We will be struck with the glory of our God.

“The wounds of Christ were the greatest outlets of His glory that ever were. The divine glory shone more out of this wounds than out of all his life before.”

Robert Murray McCheyne

“There is no tribunal so magnificent, no throne so stately, no show of triumph so distinguished, no chariot so elevated, as is the gibbet on which Christ hath subdued death and the devil.”

John Calvin

When We Leave...

- We will go to our homes boasting in the cross.

*“Christ’s cross over this face, and thus over my ear. Christ’s cross over this eye.
Christ’s cross over this nose.*

*Christ’s cross to accompany me before. Christ’s cross to accompany me behind me.
Christ’s cross to meet every difficulty both on hollow and hill.*

*Christ’s cross eastwards facing me. Christ’s cross back towards the sunset.
In the north, in the south, increasingly may Christ’s cross straightway be.*

*Christ’s cross up to broad Heaven. Christ’s cross down to earth.
Let no evil or hurt come to my body or my soul.*

*Christ’s cross over me as I sit. Christ’s cross over me as I lie.
Christ’s cross be all my strength until we reach the King of Heaven.*

*From the top of my head to the nail of my foot, O Christ, against every danger
I trust in the protection of the cross.*

*Till the day of my death, going into this clay, I shall draw without –
Christ’s cross over this face.”*

The Celtic Tradition

- We will go to the nations carrying our cross.

*“Am I a soldier of the cross, a follower of the lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause or blush to speak His Name?*

*Must I be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize and sailed through bloody seas?*

*Are there no foes for me to face? Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vile world a friend to grace to help me on to God?*

*Since I might fight if I would reign, increase my courage, Lord;
I’ll bear the toil, endure the pain, supported by Thy Word.”*

Isaac Watts

Where We Are Going...

- The Reality of the Cross
- The History of the Cross
- The Meaning of the Cross
- The Journey to the Cross
- The Intent of the Cross
- The Effects of the Cross

THE REALITY OF THE CROSS

“With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.”

Mark 15:37

The Timeline...

■ Saturday

▶ The Anointing of Jesus

Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:1-3

■ Sunday

▶ The Arrival of Jesus

Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!” Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Mark 11:9-11

■ Monday

▶ The Anger of Jesus

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations?’ But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’” The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

Mark 11:15-18

■ Tuesday

▶ The Authority of Jesus

✦ His authority is challenged.

They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you authority to do this?”

Mark 11:27-28

✦ His authority is asserted.

At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

Mark 13:26-27

■ Tuesday/Wednesday

▶ The Betrayal of Jesus

Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill him. "But not during the Feast," they said, "or the people may riot."

Mark 14:1-2

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Mark 14:10-11

■ Thursday

▶ The Last Supper

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

Mark 14:12

The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

Mark 14:16

✦ The Humility of Christ: He washes His disciples' feet.

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

John 13:1-5

✦ The Prophecy of Christ: He predicts Peter's denial.

"You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered. But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not." "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times." But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.

Mark 14:27-31

✦ The Comfort of Christ: He promises the Holy Spirit.

All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:25-27

✦ The Prayer of Christ: He intercedes for His disciples.

I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

John 17:9

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,...

John 17:20

▶ The Garden of Gethsemane

✦ Three agonizing prayers

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Mark 14:32-36

✦ Three tired disciples

Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Mark 14:41-42

▶ The Arrest of Jesus

Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

Mark 14:43-46

■ Friday

▶ The Trials of Jesus

♦ Before the Jewish Authorities

▪ Preliminary hearing before Annas

Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.

John 18:12-14

Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one.

So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

John 11:49-53

▪ Hearing before Caiaphas

They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together. Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

Mark 14:53-56

▪ Trial before the Council

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Mark 15:1

- ✦ Before the Roman Authorities
 - First hearing before Pilate

“Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”

But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

Mark 15:2-5

- Hearing before Herod

On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

Luke 23:6-7

Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became friends— before this they had been enemies.

Luke 23:11-12

- Last hearing before Pilate

“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. “Crucify him!” they shouted. “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Mark 15:12-15

- ▶ The Torture of Jesus

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Mark 15:16-19

- ▶ The Crucifixion of Jesus
 - ✦ First three hours...

It was the third hour when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. They crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!”

Mark 15:25-30

- The prayer for his persecutors.

*Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."
And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.*

Luke 23:34

- The promise to the criminal.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:39-43

- The provision for his mother.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

John 19:25-27

- ✦ Last three hours...

At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

Mark 15:33-37

- The cry of dereliction.

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Mark 15:34

- Acknowledgement of thirst.

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

John 19:28

- The cry of triumph.

*When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished."
John 19:30*

- The cry of resignation.

*Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."
When he had said this, he breathed his last.
Luke 23:46*

The Tragedy...

- Some deny the fact of the cross.

*"That they said (in boast), 'We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Apostle of God';—
But they killed him not, Nor crucified him, But so it was made to appear to them, And
those who differ therein are full of doubts, With no (certain) knowledge, But only conjecture
to follow, for of a surety they killed him not:—Nay, God raised him up Unto Himself; and
God Is exalted in power, wise."
Qur'an, 4:157-158*

- Most miss the meaning of the cross.

*"I could accept Jesus as a martyr, an embodiment of sacrifice, and a divine teacher, but not
as the most perfect man ever born. His death on the cross was a great example to
the world, but that there was anything like a mysterious or miraculous
virtue in it, my heart could not accept."
Gandhi*

- We desperately need the truth of the cross.

*"The cross is the key. If I lose this key I fumble. The universe will not open to me.
But with the key in my hand I know I hold its secret."
E. Stanley Jones*

- ▶ The cross is not just an event to be discussed.
- ▶ The cross is not just an image to be viewed.
- ▶ The cross represents truth to be believed.

THE HISTORY OF THE CROSS

One Term...

■ ATONEMENT

- ▶ How does the cross provide salvation for man?

Many Theories...

■ The Ransom Theory...

- ▶ Main Proponents:
 - ✦ Church Fathers; Aulen.
- ▶ Main Point:
 - ✦ In the cross, Jesus delivers us from the powers of evil by paying a ransom price to the devil.
- ▶ Main Picture:
 - ✦ Christ as Victor (Christus Victor).

■ The Moral Influence Theory...

- ▶ Main Proponents:
 - ✦ Peter Abelard; Horace Bushnell
- ▶ Main Point:
 - ✦ There is no necessary payment for sin; the cross simply shows us how much God loves us in order to persuade us to love God.
- ▶ Main Picture:
 - ✦ God as Love.

■ The Example Theory...

- ▶ Main Proponents:
 - ✦ Faustus Socinus and the Socinians
- ▶ Main Point:
 - ✦ There is no necessary payment for sin; the cross simply demonstrates Christ's love in order to teach us how to live.
- ▶ Main Picture:
 - ✦ Christ as Teacher.

■ The Governmental Theory...

- ▶ Main Proponent:
 - ✦ Hugo Grotius
- ▶ Main Point:
 - ✦ Though there is no necessary payment for sin, the cross demonstrates God's justice when the law is broken in order to persuade us to turn from our sin.
- ▶ Main Picture:
 - ✦ God as Judge.

■ The Satisfaction Theory...

- ▶ Main Proponents:
 - ✦ Anselm; Latin Church Leaders.
- ▶ Main Point:
 - ✦ The cross satisfies the honor of God through the sacrifice of the Son of God.

- ▶ Main Picture:
 - ✦ God as Supreme Ruler.
- The Penal Substitution Theory...
 - ▶ Main Proponents:
 - ✦ Martin Luther; John Calvin; Reformers
 - ▶ Main Point:
 - ✦ At the cross, Jesus fully pays the penalty of sinners in their place in order that His righteousness might be credited to them.
 - ▶ Main Picture:
 - ✦ Jesus as Substitute.

One Glorious Truth...

- Many different theories reflecting dimensions of the atonement...
 - ▶ The cross is a triumph over the forces of evil, sin, and death.
 - ▶ The cross communicates the extent of God's love for us.
 - ▶ The cross shows us how to love like Christ.
 - ▶ The cross illustrates the significance of God's justice.
 - ▶ The cross honors the character of God.
 - ▶ The cross demonstrates our need for a substitute.
- One central truth expressing the meaning of the atonement...
 - ▶ SATISFACTION through SUBSTITUTION.

THE MEANING OF THE CROSS

SATISFACTION through SUBSTITUTION

There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

1 Timothy 2:5

These words contain “the key, not merely to the New Testament, but to the whole Bible, for they crystallize into a phrase the sum and substance of its message.”

J.I. Packer

Divine SATISFACTION

There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

1 Timothy 2:5

- God must act at all times in absolute consistency with the perfection of His character.

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Exodus 3:14

I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

Malachi 3:6

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17

- Consider the character of God...
 - ▶ He is sovereign over all.

The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Psalms 24:1-2

- ♦ He created all things.

You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them.

You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.

Nehemiah 9:6

✦ He knows all things.

*Do you know how the clouds hang poised, those wonders
of him who is perfect in knowledge?
Job 37:16*

*For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.
1 John 3:20*

✦ He sustains all things.

*Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.
O Lord, you preserve both man and beast.
Psalm 36:6*

*How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your
creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—
living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan,
which you formed to frolic there. These all look to you to give them their food at the
proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things. When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you
send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.
Psalm 104:24-30*

✦ He owns all things.

*To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens,
the earth and everything in it.
Deuteronomy 10:14*

▶ He is holy above all.

*There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.
1 Samuel 2:2*

*And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the
LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."
Isaiah 6:3*

*Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even
under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the
Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."
Revelation 4:8*

- ▶ He is righteous in all His ways.

*Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked,
treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you!
Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?
Genesis 18:25*

*He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just.
A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.
Deuteronomy 32:4*

*The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.
Psalm 145:17*

- ▶ He is just in all His wrath.

*But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.)
Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world?
Romans 3:5-6*

*All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed.
This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.
2 Thessalonians 1:5-10*

- ♦ He is indignant toward sin.

*You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God,
has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.
Psalm 45:7*

*Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?
Habakkuk 1:13*

✦ He is intolerant of sinners.

“The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong. You destroy those who tell lies; bloodthirsty and deceitful men the Lord abhors.”

Psalm 5:5-6

But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Genesis 19:26

Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.

Leviticus 10:1-2

While the Israelites were in the desert, a man was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day. Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly, and they kept him in custody, because it was not clear what should be done to him. Then the LORD said to Moses, “The man must die. The whole assembly must stone him outside the camp.” So the assembly took him outside the camp and stoned him to death, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Numbers 15:32-36

Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”

Numbers 20:11-12

Joshua said, “Why have you brought this trouble on us? The LORD will bring trouble on you today.” Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them.

Joshua 7:25

When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. The LORD’s anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God.

2 Samuel 6:6-7

At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Acts 5:10-11

- ▶ He is loving toward all His creation.

*And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.
Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.*

1 John 4:16

- Consider the sinfulness of man...

- ▶ We have denounced His sovereignty.

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Genesis 3:6-7

He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the desert in the care of a man appointed for the task.

Leviticus 16:21

- ▶ We have dishonored His holiness.

Therefore say to the house of Israel, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes."

Ezekiel 36:22-23

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Romans 1:21-25

- ▶ We have despised His righteousness.

As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

Romans 3:10-12

When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.
Romans 6:20

- ▶ We have disregarded His wrath.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.

Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Ephesians 2:1-4

- ▶ We have denied His love.

Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

Romans 2:4

■ The Divine Dilemma

- ▶ The problem...
 - ♦ How can a just God be kind to rebellious sinners who are due His wrath?

Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent— the LORD detests them both.
Proverbs 17:15

- ▶ The tension...
 - ♦ How can God express His holiness without consuming us in our sin?
 - ♦ How can God express His love without condoning us in our sin?
 - ♦ How can God judge sin and justify the sinner at the same time?
 - ♦ How can God satisfy Himself and save us at the same time?

How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboiim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I turn and devastate Ephraim. For I am God, and not man— the Holy One among you. I will not come in wrath.

Hosea 11:8-9

- ▶ The reality...
 - ♦ First and foremost, the cross is concerned with a demonstration of the character of God.

God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:25-26

- God's forgiveness of our sin is a threat to His character.

Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die."

2 Samuel 12:13

- Before the cross is for anyone else's sake, the cross is for God's sake.

"If I would appreciate the blood of Christ I must accept God's valuation of it, for the blood is not primarily for me but for God."

Watchman Nee

- ✦ The glory of God drove Jesus to the cross.

"Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"

John 12:27-28

- He shows us that sin is infinitely offensive.
 - There is no room for self-exaltation at the cross.
 - Everything at the cross is God-exaltation.
- He shows us that God is infinitely glorious.
 - The cross is not a display of the finite worth of man.
 - The cross is a display of the infinite worth of God.

- ▶ The provision...

- ✦ How does God satisfy Himself and save sinners at the same time?

Divine SUBSTITUTION

There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

1 Timothy 2:5

- God satisfies Himself by substituting Himself in the place of sinners.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

- Consider the person of Christ...

"The possibility of substitution rests on the identity of the substitute."

John Stott

▶ Jesus is fully man.

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:17

♦ He was born of a virgin.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 1:18-20

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

Luke 1:35

♦ He possessed the full range of human characteristics.

▪ A human body.

And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

Luke 2:40

Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

John 4:6

After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

Matthew 4:2

▪ A human mind.

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Luke 2:52

▪ A human soul.

“Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.”

John 12:27

*After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified,
“I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me.”*

John 13:21

Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

Matthew 26:38

▪ Human emotions.

*When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him,
“I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.”*

Matthew 8:10

Jesus wept.

John 11:35

During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

Hebrews 5:7-8

▪ Human observation.

When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”

And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor.” And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Matthew 13:53-58

♦ He is fully able to identify with us.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

- He is familiar with our struggles.
- He is familiar with our sorrow.
- He is familiar with our suffering.

▶ Jesus is fully God.

“The doctrine of Christ’s divinity seems to me not something stuck on which you can unstick but something that peeps out at every point so that you’d have to unravel the whole web to get rid of it.”

C.S. Lewis

✦ His identity...

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 1:1-4

- He is eternal.

But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.”

Hebrews 1:8

- He is Creator.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

Colossians 1:15-16

- He is Sustainer.

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:17

- He is omnipotent.

He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”

Matthew 8:26-27

And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

Matthew 14:19

- He is omniscient.

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things?"

Mark 2:8

He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.

John 2:25

"Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

John 16:30

- He is sovereign.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Mark 2:5-7

At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Matthew 11:25-27

- ✦ His testimony...

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

John 8:58

"I and the Father are one."

John 10:30

- ✦ Man's testimony...

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

John 20:28

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,...

Colossians 2:9

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 1:3

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 1:8

- ✦ The quintilemma...
 - Is Jesus a legend?
 - Is Jesus a lama?
 - Is Jesus a liar?
 - Is Jesus a lunatic?
 - Is Jesus Lord?

“You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit on Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

C.S. Lewis

- ✦ Jesus is fully able to identify with God.

“He suffered not as God, but he who suffered was God.”

John Owen

- ▶ The person of Christ is a mysterious unity of two natures.

“Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man...perfect God, and perfect man... who although he be God and man; yet he is not two, but one Christ; one, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh; but by taking of the manhood into God.”

Athanasian Creed

- ✦ His human nature and divine nature are different.
 - He has returned to heaven AND He is present with us.

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:9-11

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:20

- He was 30 years old AND He eternally existed.

Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry.

Luke 3:23

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"
John 8:58

- He was tired AND omnipotent.

Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.
Matthew 8:24

He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Matthew 8:26-27

- He was born a baby AND He sustains the universe.

And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.
Luke 2:7

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:16-17

- He lost his human life AND He possesses divine authority.

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.
Luke 23:46

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.

John 10:17-18

- ♦ His human nature and divine nature are unified.

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"
John 8:58

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,...

1 Corinthians 15:3

I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.
John 16:28

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Matthew 28:20

- ▶ The person of Christ on the cross...
 - ♦ Not Jesus alone.
 - ♦ Not God alone.
 - ♦ God in Christ.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.
Colossians 1:19-20

- Consider the purpose of Christ...

For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.
Luke 19:10

- ▶ Jesus came to live a sinless life.

“What is truth?” Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”
John 18:38

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.
Hebrews 4:15

...the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.
1 Peter 1:19

But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.
1 John 3:5

- ♦ He was obedient.

If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.
John 15:10

✦ He was righteous.

...because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.
Acts 2:27

*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we
might become the righteousness of God.*
2 Corinthians 5:21

*My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we
have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*
1 John 2:1

- ▶ Jesus came to die a substitutionary death.
- ✦ He assumed our identity.

*For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might
become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he
might make atonement for the sins of the people.*
Hebrews 2:17

- He died in the place of the disobedient.
- He died in the place of the unrighteous.

*Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, “You know
nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people
than that the whole nation perish.” He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that
year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation
but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one.*
So from that day on they plotted to take his life.
John 11:49-53

*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.
Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might
possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still
sinners, Christ died for us.*
Romans 5:6-8

*For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one
died for all, and therefore all died.*
2 Corinthians 5:14

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written:
“Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”*
Galatians 3:13

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24

✦ He accomplished our salvation.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

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—

Colossians 1:21-22

■ The Divine Dilemma Solved

▶ Divine Satisfaction...

✦ The totality of God's character is expressed.

Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Psalm 85:10

LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.

Habakkuk 3:2

▶ Divine Substitution

✦ Salvation through God's Son is achieved.

✦ The essence of sin: Man substitutes himself for God.

▪ Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be.

✦ The essence of salvation: God substitutes Himself for man.

▪ God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

▶ Satisfaction through substitution...

✦ At the cross, God expresses His judgment on sin.

✦ At the cross, God endures His judgment against sin.

✦ At the cross, God enables salvation for sinners.

■ Consider the prophecy of Christ...

Isaiah 53 is "the Bible in miniature and the Gospel in essence."

Charles Spurgeon

► An Important Passage...

- ✦ 8 of the 12 verses are attributed to Jesus in the NT.
- ✦ Quoted 7 times in the New Testament.

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

Matthew 8:16-17

It is written: And he was numbered with the transgressors; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.

Luke 22:37

This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: "Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

John 12:38

But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?"

Rom. 10:16

The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."

Acts 8:32-33

It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."

Rom. 15:20-21

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 Peter 2:22-25

► An Insightful Passage...

- ✦ See the person of Christ.
 - His humanity: He is familiar with suffering (3).
 - His deity: He is free from sin (9).
- ✦ See the sinfulness of man (4-6, 8, 12).
- ✦ See the substitution of God (4-6, 10-12).
- ✦ See the satisfaction of God (6, 10-11).
- ✦ See the salvation of men (11).

THE JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

1 Timothy 2:5

- The Last Supper
- The Garden of Gethsemane
- The Cry of Dereliction
- The Cry of Triumph

The Last Supper

Matthew 26:17-30

Key Theme...

- Sacrifice.

Key Truth...

- Jesus died our death.

Key Texts...

- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- Exodus 12
- Exodus 24
- Leviticus 16

Sacrifice: Jesus died our death.

- We deserve to die for our sin.

And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Genesis 2:16-17

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

- On the cross, Jesus sacrificed Himself and died in our place.

...just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

But now [Jesus] has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 9:26

Remember the Passover...

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" So the disciples did as

Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

Matthew 26:17-19

It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

John 19:14-16

■ Old Testament...

▶ Three pictures of God...

- ✦ He is the Almighty Judge.

On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.

Exodus 12:12

- ✦ He is the Gracious Savior.

The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

Exodus 12:13

- ✦ He is the Faithful Provider.

"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD – a lasting ordinance."

Exodus 12:14

▶ Two acts of deliverance...

- ✦ Deliverance from the rulers of Egypt.

Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the LORD's divisions left Egypt. Because the LORD kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the LORD for the generations to come.

Exodus 12:40-42

- ✦ Deliverance from the judgment of God.

All the Israelites did just what the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron. And on that very day the LORD brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions.

Exodus 12:50-51

- ▶ One decisive element...
 - ✦ The blood of a substitute sacrifice (a spotless lamb).

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down."

Exodus 12:21-23

■ New Testament...

- ▶ On the cross, God reveals Himself...
 - ✦ As the Almighty Judge.

...he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:26

- ✦ As the Gracious Savior.

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

1 John 4:14

- ✦ As the Faithful Provider.

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:17

- ▶ On the cross, God delivers us...
 - ✦ From the power of sin.

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Romans 6:6-7

- ✦ From the penalty of sin.

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Hebrews 2:14-15

- ▶ All of this happens because of the blood of a substitute sacrifice – the Lamb of God.

“It must be eaten inside one house; take none of the meat outside the house.

Do not break any of the bones.

Exodus 12:46

These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled:

“Not one of his bones will be broken.”

John 19:36

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said,
“Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*

John 1:29

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

1 Cor. 5:7

Remember Mount Sinai...

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

Matthew 26:27-28

Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

Exodus 24:8

■ Old Testament...

- ▶ The old covenant command: Stay back in fear.

Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, “Be careful that you do not go up the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.”

Exodus 19:12

- ▶ The old covenant people:
 - ✦ In need of the blood of a sacrifice.

Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

Exodus 24:8

- ✦ Unable to obey the law.

Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.”

Exodus 24:7

They did not keep God's covenant and refused to live by his law.

Psalm 78:10

Their hearts were not loyal to him, they were not faithful to his covenant.

Psalm 78:37

The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant.

Isaiah 24:5

They have returned to the sins of their forefathers, who refused to listen to my words. They have followed other gods to serve them. Both the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken the covenant I made with their forefathers.

Jeremiah 11:10

This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will deal with you as you deserve, because you have despised my oath by breaking the covenant.

Ezekiel 16:59

▶ The old covenant promise:

“The time is coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Jeremiah 31:31-34

■ New Testament...

▶ The new covenant fulfillment:

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.

Hebrews 10:15-18

- ▶ The new covenant people:
 - ✦ Forgiven by the blood of a sacrifice.

The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. 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!

Hebrews 9:13-14

- ✦ Enabled to obey the law.

You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.
2 Corinthians 3:3

- ▶ The new covenant invitation: Draw near in faith.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:19-22

Remember the Day of Atonement...

This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves and not do any work—whether native-born or an alien living among you—because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins.

Leviticus 16:29-30

■ Old Testament...

- ▶ The old covenant provision: An annual sacrifice on the Day of Atonement.
- ▶ The old covenant elements...
 - ✦ A priest entering an earthly sanctuary.

“This is how Aaron is to enter the sanctuary area: with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash around him and put on the linen turban. These are sacred garments; so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on.”

Leviticus 16:3-4

✦ The blood of a spotless animal.

Aaron shall bring the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household, and he is to slaughter the bull for his own sin offering.

Leviticus 16:11

“He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull’s blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it. In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been. He is to do the same for the Tent of Meeting, which is among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

Leviticus 16:15-16

✦ A sacrifice that would need repeating.

“This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: Atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites.” And it was done, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Leviticus 16:34

- ▶ The old covenant effect...
- ✦ A reminder of all our sin.

But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:3-4

■ New Testament...

- ▶ The new covenant provision: An abiding sacrifice in the death of Christ.

And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:10

- ▶ The new covenant elements...
- ✦ A priest entering a heavenly sanctuary.

For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence.

Hebrews 9:24

✦ The blood of a sinless man.

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!

Hebrews 9:14

- ✦ A sacrifice that will last forever.

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 10:12-14

- ▶ The new covenant effect...
 - ✦ The removal of all our sin.

Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."

Hebrews 10:17

Sacrifice: Jesus died our death...

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in the Father's kingdom."

Matthew 26:26-29

- Exodus 12: Remember the Passover...
 - ▶ We are delivered by His blood.
- Exodus 24: Remember the covenant...
 - ▶ We are sealed by His blood.
- Leviticus 16: Remember the Day of Atonement...
 - ▶ We are cleansed by His blood.

The Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36-46

Key Theme...

- Propitiation.

Key Truth...

- Jesus endured our condemnation.

Key Texts...

- Romans 3:21-26
- Hebrews 2:17
- 1 John 2:1-2
- 1 John 4:8-10

Propitiation: Jesus endured our condemnation.

- Sin arouses the fury, anger, and wrath of God.
- As sinners, we deserve to bear God's wrath against sin.
- As our substitute, Jesus became the object of God's fury, anger, and wrath so that we might not experience it.
 - ▶ Expiation: Our sin is removed.
 - ▶ Propitiation: God's wrath is satisfied.

In the Garden...

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Matthew 26:39

He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

Matthew 26:42

So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Matthew 26:44

- The cup of the cross is not primarily physical suffering.
- The cup of the cross is predominantly spiritual suffering.
- Jesus is not a coward about to face Roman soldiers.
- Jesus is a Savior about to endure divine wrath.

In the hand of the LORD is a cup full of foaming wine mixed with spices; he pours it out, and all the wicked of the earth drink it down to its very dregs.

Psalm 75:8

Awake, awake! Rise up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes men stagger. Of all the sons she bore there was none to guide her; of all the sons she reared there was none to take her by the hand. These double calamities have come upon you— who can comfort you?— ruin and destruction, famine and sword— who can console you? Your sons have fainted; they lie at the head of every street, like antelope caught in a net. They are filled with the wrath of the LORD and the rebuke of your God. Therefore hear this, you afflicted one, made drunk, but not with wine. This is what your Sovereign LORD says, your God, who defends his people: “See, I have taken out of your hand the cup that made you stagger; from that cup, the goblet of my wrath, you will never drink again.”
Isaiah 51:17-22

This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: “Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them.”
Jeremiah 25:15-16

This is what the Sovereign LORD says: “You will drink your sister’s cup, a cup large and deep; it will bring scorn and derision, for it holds so much. You will be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, the cup of ruin and desolation, the cup of your sister Samaria. You will drink it and drain it dry; you will dash it to pieces and tear your breasts. I have spoken,” declares the Sovereign LORD.
Ezekiel 23:32-34

You will be filled with shame instead of glory. Now it is your turn! Drink and be exposed! The cup from the LORD’s right hand is coming around to you, and disgrace will cover your glory.
Habakkuk 2:16

He, too, will drink of the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.
Revelation 14:10

Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup. Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, “I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.” Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.
Revelation 18:6-8

In the Old Testament...

- God's wrath is real.
 - ▶ More than 20 different words to describe God's wrath.
 - ▶ Over 580 different references to God's wrath.

Let his own eyes see his destruction; let him drink of the wrath of the Almighty.
Job 21:20

See, the Name of the LORD comes from afar, with burning anger and dense clouds of smoke; his lips are full of wrath, and his tongue is a consuming fire. His breath is like a rushing torrent, rising up to the neck. He shakes the nations in the sieve of destruction; he places in the jaws of the peoples a bit that leads them astray. And you will sing as on the night you celebrate a holy festival; your hearts will rejoice as when people go up with flutes to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel. The LORD will cause men to hear his majestic voice and will make them see his arm coming down with raging anger and consuming fire, with cloudburst, thunderstorm and hail.
Isaiah 30:27-30

I am about to pour out my wrath on you and spend my anger against you; I will judge you according to your conduct and repay you for all your detestable practices. I will not look on you with pity or spare you; I will repay you in accordance with your conduct and the detestable practices among you. Then you will know that it is I the LORD who strikes the blow.
Ezekiel 7:8-9

Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "Because you have all become dross, I will gather you into Jerusalem. As men gather silver, copper, iron, lead and tin into a furnace to melt it with a fiery blast, so will I gather you in my anger and my wrath and put you inside the city and melt you. I will gather you and I will blow on you with my fiery wrath, and you will be melted inside her. As silver is melted in a furnace, so you will be melted inside her, and you will know that I the LORD have poured out my wrath upon you."
Ezekiel 22:19-22

- God's wrath is personal.

They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."
Exodus 32:8-10

For the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land.
Deuteronomy 6:15

*You have rejected us, O God, and burst forth upon us; you have been angry—now restore us!
You have shaken the land and torn it open; mend its fractures, for it is quaking. You have
shown your people desperate times; you have given us wine that makes us stagger.*

Psalm 60:1-3

■ God's wrath is intense.

*Listen, a noise on the mountains, like that of a great multitude! Listen, an uproar among
the kingdoms, like nations massing together! The LORD Almighty is mustering an army
for war. They come from faraway lands, from the ends of the heavens— the LORD and
the weapons of his wrath— to destroy the whole country. Wail, for the day of the LORD
is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. Because of this, all hands will go
limp, every man's heart will melt. Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them;
they will writhe like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at each other, their faces
afloat. See, the day of the LORD is coming — a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—
to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.*

Isaiah 13:4-9

*Therefore as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, because you have defiled my
sanctuary with all your vile images and detestable practices, I myself will withdraw my
favor; I will not look on you with pity or spare you. A third of your people will die of the
plague or perish by famine inside you; a third will fall by the sword outside your walls; and
a third I will scatter to the winds and pursue with drawn sword. Then my anger will cease
and my wrath against them will subside, and I will be avenged. And when I have spent
my wrath upon them, they will know that I the LORD have spoken in my zeal. I will
make you a ruin and a reproach among the nations around you, in the sight of all who pass
by. You will be a reproach and a taunt, a warning and an object of horror to the nations
around you when I inflict punishment on you in anger and in wrath and with stinging
rebuke. I the LORD have spoken. When I shoot at you with my deadly and destructive
arrows of famine, I will shoot to destroy you. I will bring more and more famine upon you
and cut off your supply of food. I will send famine and wild beasts against you, and
they will leave you childless. Plague and bloodshed will sweep through you, and
I will bring the sword against you. I the LORD have spoken.*

Ezekiel 5:11-17

▶ God intensely hates sin.

*Again and again I sent my servants the prophets, who said, "Do not do this detestable
thing that I hate!" But they did not listen or pay attention; they did not turn from
their wickedness or stop burning incense to other gods.*

Jeremiah 44:4-5

*I will sentence you to the punishment of women who commit adultery and who shed blood;
I will bring upon you the blood vengeance of my wrath and jealous anger.*

Ezekiel 16:38

- ▶ God intensely hates sinners.

The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong.
Psalm 5:5

The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates. On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot.
Psalm 11:5-6

- God's wrath is sovereign.

I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things.
Isaiah 45:7

*When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble?
When disaster comes to a city, has not the LORD caused it?*
Amos 3:6

- God's wrath is steady.

God is a righteous judge, a God who expresses his wrath every day.
Psalm 7:11

When the LORD heard them, he was very angry; his fire broke out against Jacob, and his wrath rose against Israel, for they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance.
Psalm 78:21-22

- God's wrath is pure.

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?
Habakkuk 1:13

- God's wrath is loving.

*You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.
You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.*
Psalm 85:2-3

*Yet he was merciful; he forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them.
Time after time he restrained his anger and did not stir up his full wrath.*
Psalm 78:38

You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.
Psalm 85:3

*For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise
I hold it back from you, so as not to cut you off.*
Isaiah 48:9

*Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of
his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.*
Micah 7:18

In the New Testament...

- God's wrath is continual.

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life,
for God's wrath remains on him.*
John 3:36

*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness
of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about
God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.*
Romans 1:18-19

- God's wrath is coming.

*But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing,
he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"*
Matthew 3:7

*But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath
against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.
God "will give to each person according to what he has done." To those who by persistence
in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who
are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.
There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew,
then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first
for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism.*
Romans 2:5-11

- God's wrath is deserved.

*But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we
say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.)
Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? Someone might argue,
"If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still
condemned as a sinner?" Why not say—as we are being slanderously reported
as saying and as some claim that we say—"Let us do evil that good may result?"
Their condemnation is deserved.*
Romans 3:5-8

■ God's wrath is eternal.

If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.

Matthew 18:8

And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:47-48

■ God's wrath is final.

This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

■ God's wrath is dreadful.

Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Revelation 6:15-17

■ God's wrath is irreversible.

A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."

Revelation 14:9-11

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15

On the cross...

- Propitiation is dependent on the initiative of God.

God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Romans 3:25-26

- Propitiation is accomplished by the Son of God.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:14-16

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

Numbers 21:4-9

- ▶ A Sinful People
 - ✦ They distrusted God's guidance.
 - ✦ They blasphemed God's greatness.
 - ✦ They doubted God's goodness.
 - ✦ They spurned God's generosity.
 - ✦ They despised God's gifts.
 - ✦ They rejected God's grace.

- ▶ A Sympathetic Provider
 - ✦ God demonstrates His wrath.
 - ✦ God demonstrates His mercy.

- ▶ A Shocking Paradox
 - ✦ God transforms the picture of sin into the means of salvation.
 - ✦ God transforms the symbol of death into the source of life.

So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me."

John 8:28

But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.

John 12:32

■ Propitiation is a demonstration of the love of God.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:9-10

▶ God's Son was sent by the Father's love.

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.

John 3:35

▶ God's wrath was endured by the Son's love.

*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.
Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone
might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5:6-8

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

1 John 3:16

*...and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—
Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.*

1 Thessalonians 1:10

*Man of Sorrows! what a name
for the Son of God, who came
ruined sinners to reclaim.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

*Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned he stood;
sealed my pardon with his blood.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

*Guilty, vile, and helpless we;
spotless Lamb of God was he;
full atonement can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

*Lifted up was he to die;
"It is finished!" was his cry;
now in heaven exalted high.
Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

*When he comes, our glorious King,
all his ransomed home to bring,
then anew this song we'll sing:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

Philip Bliss

The Cry of Dereliction

*From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which means,
“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
Matthew 27:45-46*

Key Theme...

- Reconciliation.

Key Truth...

- Jesus suffered our separation.

Key Texts...

- Psalm 22
- Romans 5:1-11
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- Galatians 3:10-14

Reconciliation: Jesus suffered our separation.

- In our sin, we are separated from God as His enemies.

*Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds
because of your evil behavior.
Colossians 1:21*

*You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward
God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.
James 4:4*

- ▶ Man is hostile to God.

*They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They
are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters,
insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;
they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous
decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue
to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.
Romans 1:29-32*

*The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.
Romans 8:7*

- ▶ God is hostile to man.

If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

Hebrews 10:26-27

- Through our substitute, we are reconciled to God as His friends.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:6-8

Separation on the Cross...

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"—which means,

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Matthew 27:45-46

- NOT a cry of unbelief.

You heard me say, "I am going away and I am coming back to you." If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

John 14:28

- NOT a cry of confusion.

He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise."

Mark 9:31

■ NOT a cry of despair.

Some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?"

John 16:17

I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you. You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

Psalm 22:22-24

■ A cry of spiritual anguish.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

Psalm 22:1

■ A cry of relational alienation.

- ▶ Alienated by the Father.

O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.

Psalm 22:2

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land.

Matthew 27:45

- ▶ Alienated by men.

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

Psalm 22:6-8

Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

Matthew 27:39-44

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

Psalm 22:11-12

*“But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.”
Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.
Matthew 26:56*

*I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.
Psalm 22:17*

*The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.”
Luke 23:35*

■ A cry of physical agony.

*I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted away within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue
sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. Dogs have surrounded me;
a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.
Psalm 22:14-16*

*“Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not
have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” When he had said this,
he showed them his hands and feet.
Luke 24:39-40*

Salvation from the Curse...

■ God is the author of reconciliation.

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ
and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.
2 Corinthians 5:18*

*“All is of God; the only thing of my very own which I contribute to my
redemption is the sin from which I need to be redeemed.”
William Temple*

- ▶ He is the giver of the Gospel.
- ▶ He is the gift of the Gospel.
- ▶ He is the goal of the Gospel.

■ Christ is the agent of reconciliation.

*For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to
himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his
blood, shed on the cross. 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—
Colossians 1:19-22*

- ▶ We were under the curse of God's law.

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

Galatians 3:10

"Cursed is the man who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

Deuteronomy 27:26

- ✦ Blessing: To experience the favorable presence of God.

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

- The reward for obedience.

If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

- ✦ Curse: To be cut off from the favorable presence of God.

Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way.

Exodus 33:3

So the LORD said, "I will remove Judah also from my presence as I removed Israel, and I will reject Jerusalem, the city I chose, and this temple, about which I said, 'There shall my Name be.'"

2 Kings 23:27

Surely these things happened to Judah according to the LORD's command, in order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all he had done,

2 Kings 24:3

- The recompense for disobedience.

However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.

Deuteronomy 28:15

- ▶ Christ came under the cross of God's judgment.

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written:
"Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."*

Galatians 3:13

You must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse. You must not desecrate the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

Deuteronomy 21:23

- ♦ He was cut off from God's favorable presence.

The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.

Hebrews 13:11-12

The man who releases the goat as a scapegoat must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterward he may come into the camp. The bull and the goat for the sin offerings, whose blood was brought into the Most Holy Place to make atonement, must be taken outside the camp; their hides, flesh and offal are to be burned up. The man who burns them must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterward he may come into the camp.

Leviticus 16:26-28

The person with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face and cry out, "Unclean! Unclean!" As long as he has the infection he remains unclean. He must live alone; he must live outside the camp.

Leviticus 13:45-46

Then the LORD said to Moses: "Take the blasphemer outside the camp. All those who heard him are to lay their hands on his head, and the entire assembly is to stone him."

Leviticus 24:13-14

- ♦ He was given the full recompense of our disobedience.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

"Our most merciful Father, seeing us to be oppressed and overwhelmed with the curse of the law [so that] we could never be delivered from it by our own power, sent his only Son in the world and laid upon him all the sins of all men, saying: Be thou Peter that denier; Paul that persecutor, blasphemer and cruel oppressor; David that adulterer; that sinner which did eat the apple in Paradise; that thief which hanged upon the cross; and briefly, be thou the person which hath committed the sins of all men; see therefore that thou pay and satisfy for them [all]."

Martin Luther

- We are the acceptors of reconciliation.

He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

Galatians 3:14

- ▶ We cannot remove the curse.

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."

Galatians 3:10-11

- ▶ We can only receive the cross.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:9-11

The Cry of Triumph

*When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished."
John 19:30*

Key Theme...

- Redemption.

Key Truth...

- Jesus paid our debt.

Key Texts...

- Mark 10:45
- Colossians 1:13-14
- Titus 2:13-14
- Hebrews 9:11-14

...while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 2:13-14

"The debt was so great, that while man alone owed it, only God could pay it."

Anselm

Redemption: Jesus paid our debt.

- Because of our sin, we live in a state of bondage.
 - ▶ We are slaves to sin.

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

Romans 7:14

But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

Galatians 3:22

- ▶ We are slaves to ourselves.

Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

Romans 6:19

- ▶ We are slaves to Satan.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Ephesians 2:1-2

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 4:4

- ▶ We are slaves to the law.

Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed.

Galatians 3:23

- ▶ We are slaves to death.

...and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Hebrews 2:15

- Because of the price that our substitute has paid, we are liberated from bondage to live in freedom.

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45

- ▶ We are free from sin.

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Romans 6:6-7

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

Romans 6:22

- ▶ We are free from ourselves.

For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:3-4

- ▶ We are free from Satan.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

- ▶ We are free from the law.

So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

Romans 7:4-6

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Galatians 4:4-7

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

- ▶ We are free from death.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Hebrews 2:14-15

The Old Testament: Redemption Anticipated

But now, this is what the LORD says— he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life.”

Isaiah 43:1-4

■ Old Testament Patterns

- ▶ Men paid a price in order to...

Buy property.

If one of your countrymen becomes poor and sells some of his property, his nearest relative is to come and redeem what his countryman has sold.

Leviticus 25:25

Free a relative.

He and his buyer are to count the time from the year he sold himself up to the Year of Jubilee. The price for his release is to be based on the rate paid to a hired man for that number of years. If many years remain, he must pay for his redemption a larger share of the price paid for him. If only a few years remain until the Year of Jubilee, he is to compute that and pay for his redemption accordingly.

Leviticus 25:50-52

Free a slave.

If she does not please the master who has selected her for himself, he must let her be redeemed. He has no right to sell her to foreigners, because he has broken faith with her.

Exodus 21:8

Free exiles.

I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the LORD Almighty.

Isaiah 45:13

- ▶ God paid a price in order to...

Deliver His people from slavery in Egypt.

Therefore, say to the Israelites: "I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment."

Exodus 6:6

Free His people from Babylonian captivity.

Writhe in agony, O Daughter of Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you must leave the city to camp in the open field. You will go to Babylon; there you will be rescued. There the LORD will redeem you out of the hand of your enemies.

Micah 4:10

Rescue His people from the consequences of sin.

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalms 103:2-5

I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Isaiah 44:22

- ▶ God demonstrates His power as Redeemer.

And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt?

2 Samuel 7:23

You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

Psalms 77:14-15

They remembered that God was their Rock, that God Most High was their Redeemer.

Psalms 78:35

*Then you will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior,
your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.*

Isaiah 60:16b

This is what the LORD Almighty says: “The people of Israel are oppressed, and the people of Judah as well. All their captors hold them fast, refusing to let them go. Yet their Redeemer is strong; the LORD Almighty is his name. He will vigorously defend their cause so that he may bring rest to their land, but unrest to those who live in Babylon.”

Jeremiah 50:33-34

- ▶ God’s people illustrate His grace as the redeemed.

In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed.

In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

Exodus 15:13

Let the redeemed of the LORD say this—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,...

Psalm 107:2

No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there,...

Isaiah 35:9

*They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD;
and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.*

Isaiah 62:12

■ Old Testament Stories

- ▶ Boaz: The Kinsman Redeemer

“The LORD bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added,

“That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers.”

Ruth 2:20

The portrait of a kinsman-redeemer...

Now Naomi had a relative on her husband’s side, from the clan of Elimelech, a man of standing, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.” Naomi said to her, “Go ahead, my daughter.” So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.

Ruth 2:1-3

- ✦ He seeks the outcast as his family.

So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter, listen to me. Don’t go and glean in another field and don’t go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls. Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled.”

Ruth 2:8-9

- ✦ He saves the outcast from harm.

As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, "Even if she gathers among the sheaves, don't embarrass her. Rather, pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her."

Ruth 2:15-16

- ✦ He serves the outcast at his table.

At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar." When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over.

Ruth 2:14

The price of a kinsman-redeemer...

Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there. When the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along, Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down. Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. Then he said to the kinsman-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech. I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said.

Ruth 4:1-4

- ✦ He must have the right to redeem.
- ✦ He must have the resources to redeem.
- ✦ He must have the resolve to redeem.

Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon. I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!"

Ruth 4:9-10

▶ Hosea: The Faithful Husband

When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD." So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

Hosea 1:2-3

✦ A story of an unfaithful people.

*“Rebuke your mother, rebuke her, for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband.
Let her remove the adulterous look from her face and the
unfaithfulness from between her breasts.”*

Hosea 2:2

- She was adulterous.
- She was idolatrous.
- She was hypocritical.
- She was forgetful.

*“I will punish her for the days she burned incense to the Baals; she decked herself with rings
and jewelry, and went after her lovers, but me she forgot,” declares the LORD.*

Hosea 2:13

✦ A story of an unreasonable God.

*“Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into
the desert and speak tenderly to her.*

Hosea 2:14

- I will allure her.
- I will lead her.
- I will speak tenderly to her.
- I will give to her.
- I will restore her.
- I will protect her.
- I will betroth her.
- I will respond to her.
- I will establish her.
- I will pay the price for her.

*The LORD said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by
another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn
to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.” So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver
and about a homer and a lethek of barley. Then I told her, “You are to live with me many
days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you.”*

Hosea 3:1-3

The New Testament: Redemption Achieved

- Christ our Redeemer
 - ▶ His payment was celebrated.

*“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he
has come and has redeemed his people.”*

Luke 1:68

Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 2:38

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:16-21

- ▶ His payment was costly.

Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Acts 20:28

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,
in accordance with the riches of God's grace...*

Ephesians 1:7

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

1 Peter 1:18-19

- ▶ His payment was complete.

He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9:12

You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 6:20

■ Christ our Victor

- ▶ Victory promised...

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

Genesis 3:15

▶ Victory begun...

But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.

Matthew 12:28-29

▶ Victory accomplished...

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. 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.

Colossians 2:13-15

- ✦ Sinful people are forgiven.
- ✦ Spiritual powers are overthrown.
 - He has disarmed them.
 - He has embarrassed them.
 - He has defeated them.

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.

John 12:31

He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 John 3:8

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 20:10

▶ Victory announced...

But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:10

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God!

He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

▶ Victory awaited...

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?

But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Romans 8:23-25

THE INTENT OF THE CROSS

*There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom **for all**, which is the testimony given at the proper time.*

1 Timothy 2:5

The Question: For whom did Christ die?

- Areas of Agreement...
 - ▶ The sufficiency of Christ's death.
 - ✦ Christ's payment for sin on the cross is sufficient for the sins of the whole world.
 - ▶ The efficacy of Christ's death.
 - ✦ Only those who trust in Christ for salvation (the elect/church) experience the effects of the cross.
 - ▶ The proclamation of Christ's death.
 - ✦ The Gospel is to be preached to all people.
- Area of Disagreement...
 - ▶ Does God in Christ intend to possibly save all people?
 - ✦ Or does God in Christ intend to definitely save some people (the elect)?
 - ▶ Did Jesus pay for the sins of all people?
 - ✦ Or did Jesus pay for the sins of the elect only?

General Atonement:

Christ died to pay the penalty for the sins of all people, thus making it possible for any and all people to be saved.

- God loves all people and wants all people to be saved.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:2

And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

1 John 4:14

- Christ died for the sins of all people.

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1:29

...we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.

1 Timothy 4:10

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 2:9

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.

2 Peter 2:1

- Faith in Christ is necessary for the benefits of Christ's death to be applied to our lives.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10

- The Gospel must be preached to all people because any person may possibly come to salvation.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

Definite Atonement:

Christ died to pay the penalty for the sins of the elect, thus making it certain that His people will be saved.

- God loves the elect and designs their salvation in the cross.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:3-14

- Christ died to definitively save His people.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:37-40

Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Acts 20:28

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

Ephesians 5:25

...Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 2:13-14

- Not all people are saved.

This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

- ▶ If Christ died to pay for the sins of all people, then He has paid for the sins of all people, so why do some still go to hell? (Keep in mind...their sins include the sin of unbelief.)

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 2:17

- ✦ We have three options...
 - Christ endured the wrath of God for all sins of all men.
 - Christ endured the wrath of God for all sins of some men.
 - Christ endured the wrath of God for some sins of some men.
- ▶ If God always accomplishes His purposes and Christ died for the purpose of saving all people, then why are not all people saved?

“I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.”

Job 42:2

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose.

What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.

Isaiah 46:9-11

- Christ therefore died for the purpose of saving a certain people (the elect).

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:11

Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:15

I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

John 17:9

*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who
will believe in me through their message...*

John 17:20

He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:32-39

- Faith in Christ is the God-ordained means and Christ-bought gift for the elect to be saved.

When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed.

Acts 18:27

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him,

Philippians 1:29

- The Gospel must be preached to all people because some people are definitely going to be saved.

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

Acts 13:48

One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

Acts 16:14

CONCLUSIONS

- There are multiple perceptions of the will of God.

Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

Isaiah 53:10

This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

Acts 2:23

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

- ▶ God's revealed will: What He declares.

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

- ▶ God's secret will: What He decrees.

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Psalms 139:16

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:20

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.

They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

Acts 4:27-28

- ▶ The sovereignty of God: He is in control.

Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.” What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

Romans 9:11-18

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

John 15:16

- ▶ The responsibility of man: We are making choices.

This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

Acts 2:23

- ✦ Our choices are certain, not necessary.
 - Necessary choices must happen.
 - We cannot act in a way contrary to God’s plan.
 - Certain choices will happen.
 - We will not act in a way contrary to God’s plan.
- ✦ Our choices are completely real, but not completely free.
- ✦ Our choices have real consequences with real responsibility.
 - We are naturally responsible to God.
 - We are morally responsible to God.
 - We are intellectually responsible to God.
 - We are ultimately responsible to God.

Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the Lord your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the Lord, who makes you holy.

Leviticus 20:7-8

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:37-40

*When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord;
and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.*

Acts 13:48

*Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now
much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,
for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

Philippians 2:12-13

*On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the
chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices
together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heaven and the earth
and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of
your servant, our father David: “ ‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and
against his Anointed One.’ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles
and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you
anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.*

*Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with
great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and
wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed,
the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all
filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

Acts 4:23-30

- There are multiple dimensions of the love of God.

God is love.

1 John 4:8

- ▶ God’s love within the Trinity.

The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.

John 3:35

*For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your
amazement he will show him even greater things than these.*

John 5:20

*...but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do
exactly what my Father has commanded me.*

John 14:31

▶ God's love for all creation.

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

Genesis 1:20-23

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

Matthew 6:26-29

▶ God's general love for all people.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:2

▶ God's particular love for a chosen people.

The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8

To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Yet the LORD set his affection on your forefathers and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations, as it is today.

Deuteronomy 10:14-15

"I have loved you," says the LORD. "But you ask, 'How have you loved us?' "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" the LORD says. "Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his mountains into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals."

Malachi 1:2-3

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.
Ephesians 5:25

▶ God's conditional love.

*...showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love
me and keep my commandments.*

Exodus 20:6

*For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a
father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear
him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. As for man, his days
are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is
with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children -
with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.*

Psalm 103:11-18

*"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey
my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my
Father's commands and remain in his love."*

John 15:9-10

*Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our
Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.*

Jude 21

■ There are multiple intentions in the cross of Christ.

▶ Jesus died for all...

♦ In the sense that His death is sufficient to cover the sins of the whole world.

▪ God's general love for all people.

♦ Through the cross, God desires and demands that all people trust in Him.

▪ God's revealed will: What He declares.

▶ Jesus died for the elect...

♦ In the sense that His death is indeed efficient only for them.

▪ God's particular love for a chosen people.

♦ Through the cross, God enables and empowers His people to trust in Him.

▪ God's secret will: What He decrees.

■ Multiple intentions, multiple implications...

- ▶ We boldly confess the supreme sufficiency of Christ's death on the cross for the sins of the whole world.
- ▶ We humbly acknowledge the gracious efficacy of Christ's death which secures the salvation of the elect.
- ▶ We fearlessly proclaim the cross of Christ to the nations.
 - ✦ We go to all peoples with a clear message:
 - God loves you and desires your salvation.
 - ✦ We go to all peoples with a confident guarantee:
 - As we proclaim the Gospel, people will believe and be saved.

THE EFFECTS OF THE CROSS

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14

Seven Reasons Why We Boast In The Cross...

- Because the cross confronts us with who we once were.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:1-5

- The cross reminds us how horrible sin is.

“The awareness of sin, a deep awareness of disobedience, and painful confession of sin used to be our shadow. Christians hated sin. They feared it, they fled from it, they grieved over it. Some of our [forefathers] agonized over their sins. A man who lost his temper might wonder if he could still go to holy communion. A woman who for years envied her more attractive and intelligent sister might wonder if this sin threatened her very salvation.

That shadow has dimmed. Nowadays the accusation, ‘You have sinned,’ is often said with a grin and with a tone that signals an inside joke.

At one time this accusation still had the power to jolt people.”

Cornelius Plantinga

If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.”

It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:26-31

- The cross reminds us how humbling grace is.

Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 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 Peter 1:17-21

- Because the cross comforts us with who we now are.

- ▶ We are alive to God.
 - ♦ Sacrifice: He died our death.
 - ♦ We were dead; now we live!

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Romans 6:8-14

- ▶ We have an advocate before God.

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:33-39

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but 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.

Hebrews 7:23-25

- ✦ Propitiation: He endured our condemnation.
- ✦ We were afraid; now we are friends!

You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.

Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

John 15:14-16

Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.

1 John 3:21-22

- ▶ We have access to God.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:19-22

- ✦ Reconciliation: He suffered our separation.
- ✦ We were cast out; now we are invited in!

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

- ▶ We are adopted by God.

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may share in his glory.

Romans 8:15-17

- ✦ Redemption: He paid our debt.
- ✦ We were slaves; now we are sons!

So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.
Galatians 4:3-7

- Because the cross teaches us what it means to be saved.
 - ▶ The cross makes clear our justification.

“We who are Jews by birth and not ‘Gentile sinners’ know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. “If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker. For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
Galatians 2:15-20

- ✦ Christ died for us.
- ✦ We are not working for righteousness; we are working from righteousness.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21

“How are you righteous before God? Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. In spite of the fact that my conscience accuses me that I have grievously sinned against all the commandments of God, and have not kept any one of them, and that I am still ever prone to all that is evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of my own, out of pure grace, grants me the benefits of the perfect [sacrifice] of Christ, imputing to me his righteousness and holiness as if I had never committed a single sin or had ever been sinful, having fulfilled myself all the obedience which Christ has carried out for me, if only I accept such favor with a trusting heart.”
Heidelberg Catechism, Question 60

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”
1 Corinthians 1:30-31

- ▶ The cross makes possible our sanctification.

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

1 Corinthians 1:18

- + Christ now lives in us.
- + We are not in debt to Christ; we are indwelt by Christ.

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

John 14:12-14

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Philippians 2:12-13

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

Colossians 1:27-29

- ▶ The cross makes certain our glorification.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30

- + Christ is coming back for us.
- + We are not living for this world; we are living for the world to come.

Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Hebrews 9:27-28

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3

- Because the cross shows us what it means to love.

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:35

- ▶ In the church...
 - ✦ We unite around the cross.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:13

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22

- ▶ Among the lost...
 - ✦ We proclaim the cross.

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

1 Corinthians 1:17

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

1 Corinthians 2:2-5

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.
2 Corinthians 4:4-6

- ▶ Toward the poor...
- ✦ We embody the cross.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.
2 Corinthians 8:9

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."
Mark 10:21

"In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."
Luke 14:33

- Because the cross reminds us that our safety is not in this world.
- ▶ We do not fear suffering.

So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.
Matthew 10:26-31

- ▶ We are free to suffer.

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.
Philippians 1:29-30

Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.
Colossians 1:24

- Because the cross keeps us from wasting our lives in this world.

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:7-11

- ▶ This world has nothing for us.
- ▶ Christ is everything to us.

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21

- Because the cross grips us with a vision of the world to come.
 - ▶ Jesus has identified the ultimate problem.

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

Revelation 5:1

- ✦ We stand before a holy God hopeless.
- ✦ We stand before a holy God helpless.

- ▶ Jesus has paid the ultimate price.

Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Revelation 5:5-6

- ✦ He is a conquering Lion.
- ✦ He is a suffering Lamb.

- ▶ Jesus has fulfilled the ultimate purpose.

He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

Revelation 5:7

- ▶ Jesus now deserves the ultimate praise.

And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 5:8-14

- ✦ Our song will be new.
- ✦ Our worship will be never-ending.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22:1-5

Because of the SATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTE on the cross...

- Those once dead in sin now live with God.
- Those once under God's wrath now experience His blessing.
- Those once separated from God now see His face.
- Those once captive to sin and death now reign with God in life forever.

RECOMMENDED READING

If you are interested in exploring the cross of Christ or specific topics from this evening's Secret Church, the following resources are recommended. Many of these resources were foundational for the truths we explored in our study. Please note, however, that though these books are recommended, Dr. Platt does not necessarily agree with everything written in every one of them. We urge you to read and learn from these books, but at the same time, be wise in your reading to discern good teaching from men's opinions.

- Devotional Reading on the Cross...
 - ▶ John Stott, *The Cross of Christ* (Highly Recommended!)
 - ▶ C.J. Mahaney, *Living the Cross-Centered Life* (Highly Recommended!)
 - ▶ J.I. Packer and Mark Dever, *In My Place Condemned He Stood*
 - ▶ Jerry Bridges and Bob Bevington, *The Great Exchange*
 - ▶ Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Spurgeon's Sermons on the Cross of Christ*

- Technical Reading on the Cross...
 - ▶ Steve Jeffery, Michael Ovey, and Andrew Sach, *Pierced For Our Transgressions* (Highly Recommended!)
 - ▶ Charles Hill and Frank James, *The Glory of the Atonement*
 - ▶ Leon Morris, *The Atonement: Its Meaning and Significance*
 - ▶ John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*
 - ▶ James Beilby and Paul Eddy, *Four Views: The Nature of the Atonement*

- General Theology Books...
 - ▶ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (Highly Recommended!)
 - ▶ Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*
 - ▶ Bruce Demarest, *The Cross and Salvation*
 - ▶ Scott Hafemann and Paul House, *Central Themes in Biblical Theology*
 - ▶ D.A. Carson, *The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God* (Highly Recommended!)

About the Teacher

Dr. David Platt, 30, is deeply devoted to Christ and His Word. David's first love in ministry is disciple-making—the simple Biblical model of teaching God's Word, mentoring others and sharing faith. He has traveled extensively to teach the Bible and church leaders throughout the United States and around the world. Atlanta natives, he and his wife, Heather, made their home in New Orleans until they were displaced by flooding following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He became the Senior Pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in June 2006.

A life-long learner, David has earned two undergraduate and three advanced degrees. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism (A.B.J.) from the University of Georgia, and a Master of Divinity (M.Div.), Master of Theology (Th.M.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has previously served at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary as Dean of Chapel and Assistant Professor of Expository Preaching and Apologetics, and as Staff Evangelist at Edgewater Baptist Church in New Orleans.

David holds a deep and abiding passion for global disciple-making. "I believe that God has uniquely created every one of His people to impact the world. Some may count it as idealistic, but I believe it is thoroughly biblical, rooted in Psalm 67:1-2, yet covering Scripture from beginning to end. God is in the business of blessing His people so that His ways and His salvation might be made known among all people."

David also travels nationally and internationally, teaching from God's Word in churches, seminaries, the underground church or even under a shade tree in Africa or Latin America.

David and Heather have been married for nine years. They are the parents of two sons, Caleb (3) and Joshua (1) and they are in the process of adopting a young girl from Nepal.

Brook Hills' Weekends

If you are not a part of Brook Hills we welcome you as our guest this evening. If you are not currently involved in a local church, we invite you to join us for worship gatherings and small groups at Brook Hills this week:

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m.	Adult Small Groups
9:00 a.m.	Small Groups for All Ages Worship Gathering
11:00 a.m.	Small Groups for All Ages Worship Gathering
6:00 p.m.	Worship Gathering

SMALL GROUPS

Brook Hills Small Groups of 8-12 adults gather weekly for Bible study, prayer, community-building and ministry. What's great about Small Groups is that they meet at all days, times and locations. Some meet on the church campus on Sundays, others meet in homes or area gathering places during the weekend—so there's one near you at a time and day that fits your family and schedule.

For a complete listing of Small Group opportunities, visit us online at www.brookhills.org/local or stop by the Connection Central desk in the lobby for assistance in connecting with a group.

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