

## THE MATTER 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)

❖ **The Motive Behind the Cross:**

*Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.*

Matthew 27:27-31 (NIV)

1. The PURPOSE of the Cross.
2. The PREPARATION for the Cross.
3. The PAIN of the Cross.

❖ **The Message of the Cross:**

*They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the king of the Jews.*

Matthew 27:33-37 (NIV)

1. Only the SON of GOD could rescue us from our SIN.  
*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 27:46 (NIV)
2. Jesus' death REMOVED the sin BARRIER between man and God.  
*At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.*  
Matthew 27:51 (NIV)
3. Because of Jesus' death, JEW and GENTILE would come to know who Jesus is.  
*When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"*  
Matthew 27:54 (NIV)

❖ The Meaning of the Cross:

*When He had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

John 19:30 (NIV)

1. The HISTORICAL meaning:

*But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

Isaiah 53:5 (NIV)

*And 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 2:14-15 (NIV)

*So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended, and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense. But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the mighty power of God and the wonderful wisdom of God.*

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 (NLT)

2. The THEOLOGICAL meaning.

*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...*

Romans 6:6 (NIV)

*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 (NIV)

3. The SYMBOLIC meaning.

*"... and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."*

Matthew 10:38 (NIV)

*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 (NIV)