

The Cross  
I Corinthians 1:17-25, Psalm 22:1-31  
June 25, 2017

1. The Cross was \_\_\_\_\_.

Psalm 22 <sup>1</sup> *My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? ...*

<sup>7</sup> *All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.*

<sup>8</sup> *“He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him. Let Him deliver him, since he delights in Him.” ...*

<sup>14</sup> *I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me.*

<sup>15</sup> *My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.*

<sup>16</sup> *Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.*

<sup>17</sup> *All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me.*

<sup>18</sup> *They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.*

2. The Cross is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

I Corinthians 1:18 *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.*

3. The Cross is the power of God for \_\_\_\_\_.

(See I Corinthians 1:18 above.)

4. The Cross is the power of God for \_\_\_\_\_.

Colossians 2:13-14 *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.*

5. The Cross is the power of God for \_\_\_\_\_.

Colossians 1:20 *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.*

Romans 5:10 ***For if, while 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!***

Ephesians 2:15b-16 ***His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.***

6. The Cross is the power of God for \_\_\_\_\_.

I Peter 2:24 ***"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."***

7. The Cross is the power of God for \_\_\_\_\_.

Colossians 2:15 ***And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.***

8. The Cross was an act of \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus.

Philippians 2:6, 8 ***Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ... 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!***

9. There is a cross for \_\_\_\_\_.

Mark 8:34 ***And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.***

Galatians 5:24 ***And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.***

Colossians 3:5 ***Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.***

Galatians 2:20 ***I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***

The Cross  
I Corinthians 1:17-25, Psalm 22:1-31  
June 25, 2017

- “I don’t know why you people hold up a ghastly instrument of torture as a symbol for worship.”

1. The Cross was brutal.

Psalm 22 <sup>1</sup> *My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?*

...

- Jesus quoted these words from the cross.
- He had always experienced intimacy with God.
- He was taking upon Himself the separation, the alienation our sinfulness earned for us.

<sup>7</sup> *All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.*

<sup>8</sup> *“He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him. Let Him deliver him, since he delights in Him.” ...*

<sup>14</sup> *I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.*

*My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me.*

- In crucifixion, death happens by suffocation.

<sup>15</sup> *My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.*

<sup>16</sup> *Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.*

- Poke your hand with the nail. Or your wrist.
- Imagine your feet (metatarsal), or ankles.

<sup>17</sup> *All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me.*

<sup>18</sup> *They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.*

- Playing games at the foot of the cross.

2. The Cross is the power of God.

I Corinthians 1:18 ***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.***

- Parting the Red Sea was good.
- Turning water into wine was good.
- Healing people and raising the dead was good.
- Creation was good. Etc.
- These demonstrate the power of God.
- But the Cross IS the power of God.

3. The Cross is the power of God for salvation.

(See I Corinthians 1:18 above.) ***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.***

4. The Cross is the power of God for forgiveness.

Colossians 2:13-14 ***When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.***

- The charges against us are nailed to the cross.
- What a powerful image!

5. The Cross is the power of God for reconciliation.

Colossians 1:20 ***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. (Call to Worship)***

- To reconcile means to turn enemies to friends.

Romans 5:10 ***For if, while 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!***

Ephesians 2:15b-16 ***His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.***

- So this is reconciliation with God and one another.

6. The Cross is the power of God for healing.

I Peter 2:24 ***"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."***

7. The Cross is the power of God for victory.

Colossians 2:15 ***And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.***

- **Gustav Aulen *Christus Victor* 1931**
- "The work of Christ is first and foremost a victory over the powers which hold mankind in bondage: sin, death, and the devil."
- Victory over every spiritual force that would destroy us ultimately and derails us temporally. For that is the aim of the powers and authorities.
- So for us the cross becomes a thing of beauty.  
(Salvation, forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, victory)

8. The Cross was an act of obedience for Jesus.

Philippians 2:6, 8 ***Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ... 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!***

9. There is a cross for every Christ-follower.

(or your name)

Mark 8:34 ***And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.***

- **“When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.”**  
Deitrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*
- Your “cross” is not a health problem or a problem child or marriage.
- Your cross is not something that happens to you, but something you “take up.”
- Taking up your cross means denying yourself. No depriving yourself.
  - Denying yourself like Peter denied Jesus.
  - Distancing your Self from yourself, renouncing the authority of your Self over yourself, surrendering the rights of your Self.
- Sir Thomas Moore’ hair shirt was not cross-bearing.

Galatians 5:24 ***And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.***

- Puritan John Owen “Be killing sin or it will be killing you.”  
- *The Mortification of Sin*, 1656

Colossians 3:5 ***Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.***

- It could be specific things like porn, alcoholism, gossip,

- Or something deeper like pride, insecurity, fear, lack of faith.  
(Tier 1 causes tier 2)
- It could be a disease: Diabetes, tinnitus, arthritis.  
→ NOT MAGIC!  
(I surrender my diabetes and scoliosis to Christ. They are now *His*, for Him to do with them what He will.)
- **Write it on the index card and nail it to the cross!**
- I want to be crucified with Christ!

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*