

Easter

# THE CROSS

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"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)

Part 1: What is the SIGNIFICANCE of the cross?

### I. THE CROSS IS A SYMBOL OF \_\_\_\_\_.

A. The cross is a form of \_\_\_\_\_ punishment.

### II. JESUS WAS \_\_\_\_\_ ON A CROSS.

A. Crucifixion was the most \_\_\_\_\_ way to die.  
**Deut. 21:23** "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."

B. Crucifixion was considered a \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Galatians 3:13** "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."

C. Crucifixion was reserved for the worst \_\_\_\_\_.  
**1 Peter 2:22** "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."  
**Luke 23:13-14** "I find ... no basis for your charges against him."

Part 2: What was the PURPOSE of the cross?

### I. THE PROBLEM: \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Sin means: \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Romans 3:23** (NIV) "for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God."  
**1 John 1:8** (NIV) "If we claim to be **without sin**, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

### II. THE PENALTY: \_\_\_\_\_ FROM GOD.

A. Sin \_\_\_\_\_ us from God.  
**Isaiah 59:2** (NIV) "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."  
**2 Thessalonians 1:8** (NIV) "He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."

### III. THE SOLUTION: JESUS TOOK YOUR \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ in the flesh!  
**Colossians 2:9** (NIV) "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form."

B. Jesus took \_\_\_\_\_ on Himself.  
**Isaiah 53:5** (NIV) "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."  
**1 Peter 3:18** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, **to bring you to God**."

Part 3: What are the RESULTS of the cross?

### I. YOU CAN BE \_\_\_\_\_.

A. You get a second \_\_\_\_\_.!  
**John 3:17** "I didn't come to condemn the world, I came to **save it**."

B. Your debt can be " \_\_\_\_\_ !"  
**Colossians 2:14** "He has forgiven **all** our sins and canceled **every** record of the debt we owed. Christ has done away with it by nailing it to the cross."  
**Romans 8:1** "There is no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ."

### II. YOU CAN GO TO \_\_\_\_\_!

A. Universal problem: \_\_\_\_\_.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ ways the Bible says you get to heaven:

1. "Plan A" is to \_\_\_\_\_ it.

2. "Plan B": \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ ("by grace through faith")  
**Ephesians 2:8-9** (NIV) "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast."

### III. YOU CAN HAVE \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Hope means you don't fear \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Peter 1:3)

B. How? Make \_\_\_\_\_ with God... right now.  
**Romans 5:1** "Therefore, having been justified by faith we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

C. Only \_\_\_\_\_ offers hope.  
**John 3:16** NIV "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."