

The Power of the Cross

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 1:17-18.

B. The cross was an instrument of death and torture.

C. The idea of hanging on a tree is in the Old Testament even though the cross is not. (Deuteronomy 21:22-23)

II. The meaning of the cross for us.

A. The good news of Jesus is wrapped up in what happened to Jesus on the cross.

B. The cross is deliverance from the power of sin.

1. Sin entered into the world, and this resulted in death. (Romans 5:12)

2. Sin is transgression. (I John 3:4)

3. Sin is a power. (Romans 5:21, 6:12)

4. Sin ruins every major relationship.

a. With God resulting in spiritual problems. (Ephesians 4, Ecclesiastes 3)

b. With ourselves resulting in spiritual problems.

c. With others resulting in emotional problems.

d. With nature resulting in physical problems.

C. Heaven and earth meet at the cross.

1. God takes sin seriously—the result of sin is spiritual and physical death. (Ezekiel 18:4, Revelation 20:14-15)

2. God requires death as penalty for sin.

3. Atonement covered sin but did not remove it in the Old Testament; however, Jesus died to pay for sin in our place. (Romans 3:25, John 1:29)

a. Jesus was a substitute for us in death. (Genesis 22)

b. Jesus redeemed us from the penalty of death. (Colossians 1:14, Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9:22)

c. Jesus averted the wrath of God. (Exodus 22)

D. The cross is the power of God to overcome the power of sin in our lives. We must surrender ourselves to God's will. (Galatians 2:20, Luke 9:23, Romans 6)

E. The cross is a place of healing for the believer. It deals with the shame of sin. (I John 1:9)

Application questions:

1. Why is the cross central to the gospel?

2. What relationships does sin infect?

3. How can understanding the power of the cross help one with the personal sin he is dealing with at any given moment? Explain.
