

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear call, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

FLM Prayer Study # 125

THE CROSS

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God.

1st Corinthians 1:18

Other Translations

For the story and message of the cross is sheer absurdity and folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is [the manifestation of] the power of God. 1st Corinthians 1:18 AMP

The message about the cross doesn't make any sense to lost people. But for those of us who are being saved, it is God's power at work. 1st Corinthians 1:18 Contemporary English Version

The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction, but for those on the way to salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out. 1st Corinthians 1:18 The Message

How did Jesus die?

According to *ChristianAnswers.net*, medical experts, archaeologists, and historians have carefully examined in every detail what Jesus endured:

1. Before the crucifixion, he had physical symptoms that are associated with severe stress: He did not sleep. He sweat profusely. The tiny blood vessels ruptured in His sweat glands causing red blood drops to fall from His body in a medical condition called hematohidrosis. (Luke 22:44)
2. He apparently was physically exhausted and in danger of going into shock unless he had fluids, which he apparently did not have.
3. He was beaten by the Jews.
4. Afterwards He was beaten by the Romans with whips whose leather thongs had glass and metal, thus cutting the flesh with each lash. These beatings were extreme and harsh and designed to be painful to the extreme.

5. The crown of thorns forced into His scalp would have caused excruciating pain by severely irritating the major nerves on his head.
6. He was forced to carry His cross, even though he was on the verge of shock and was severely dehydrated.
7. He was hung completely naked before the crowd.
8. According to Dr. Frederick Zugibe, piercing of the median nerve in the hands and the foot's plantar nerve with a nail would cause pain so terrible that even morphine would not help.
9. The way the body was placed on the cross with the little platform at the feet made breathing extremely difficult.
10. Again according to Dr. Zugibe, a medical examiner, even a slight breeze on the skin could bring screaming pain, and he believes that Jesus died from shock due to loss of blood and fluid, plus traumatic shock from his injuries, plus cardiogenic shock causing Jesus' heart to fail.
11. Jesus died at the ninth hour. This is the same time that the priest would have blown the temple's priestly ram's horn, announcing that the priests had completed the sacrifice of the lamb for the sins of Israel.
12. Also at that moment the great thick curtain, dividing the inner court from the Holy of Holies, ripped open from top to bottom.

Jesus was fully God and fully man. As God, He could not have died from external sources but only by his own will. He died because of His incredible love for you and me. He suffered and became the sacrificial lamb for our sins in order to provide the needed way of salvation. As Titus wrote in Titus 2:11-14: *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; **Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.***

The Passion is the Christian theological term used for the events and suffering-both spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental-of Jesus in the hours before and including his trial and execution.

WHAT DID HE DO FOR YOU?

Messianic prophecies of the coming of Jesus (both first and the future Second Coming) are all over the Bible. Some of the most poignant are found in the book of Isaiah, written about 681 years before the birth of Christ:

Isaiah 52:14-15

As many were astounded at thee-His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men-so shall He sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at Him; for that which had not been told them shall they see, and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

Isaiah 53:1-7

Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For He shall grow up before Him like a tender plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He hath no form nor comeliness, and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the LORD hath laid on Him, the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.

WHAT DOES HE REQUIRE OF YOU?

Matthew 16:24-*Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

Mark 8:34-*When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."*

Mark 8:34 AMP *And Jesus called to [Him] the throng with His disciples and said to them, If any one intends to come after Me, let him deny himself-forget, ignore, disown, lose sight of himself and his own interest-and take up his cross and(joining Me as a disciple and siding with My party), follow with Me-continually, [that is]cleave steadfastly to Me.*

Luke 9:23-*Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*

According to Dake's, how do we "come after Him?"

1. We must continually be willing to follow Jesus(John 7:17, John 12:26).
2. We must deny ourselves daily. This means to renounce all self-dependence, self-interests, and self-pursuits which are contrary to God (Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:1-13; Galatians 5:19-24: Colossians 3:1-10) [J. Vernon McGee says this means to put self out of the picture and to put Christ in place of self.]
3. We must take up our cross daily(Luke 9:23, Romans 6:11-13; Romans 8:12-13; Colossians 1:23; Colossians 2:6-7; Colossians 3:5-10)
4. We must follow Christ Daily, not just for a while(John 10:26-28)

And also from Dake's

Two things One Must Be Willing to Suffer and Die for

The sake of Christ(Mark 8:35)

The Gospel of Christ(Mark 8:25)

Characteristics of those who take up their cross. [Note: It does not say to take up Christ's cross but our own cross. Each of us has a cross to bear –a cross for you and a cross for me.]

1. They are willing to suffer for the Gospel's sake, especially persecution for being righteous. **2nd Timothy 3:12:** *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.* **Philippians 1:29:** *For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake.* **Romans 8:17NIV:** *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 also share in His glory.*

2. They rejoice in afflictions. **James 1:2:** *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into various trials, knowing this, that the testing of your faith worketh patience.* **1st Peter 1:6-9** *In this ye greatly rejoice though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold trials, that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ, whom, having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*
3. They are ready to die, both “soulishly” and physically for the Lord. **2nd Corinthians 1:9:** *But we had the sentence of death in ourselves that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead.* **Revelation 12:11 New Century Version:** *And our brothers and sisters defeated him[Satan]by the blood of the Lamb’s death and by the message they preached. They did not love their lives so much that they were afraid of death.*
4. They have set their affection on things above, not on things on the earth. **Colossians 3:2:** *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*
5. They are not easily offended. **Psalms 119:165:** *Great peace have they who love thy law, and nothing shall offend them.* **Mark 6:1-3:** *And He went out from them, and came into His own country; and His disciples follow Him. And when the Sabbath day was come, He began to teach in the synagogue; and many, hearing Him, were astonished, saying, “From where hath this man these things? And what wisdom is this which is given unto Him, that even such mighty works are wrought by His hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at Him.*

ARE YOU LIVING TOO MUCH FOR NOW OR ARE YOU LIVING FOR ETERNITY? SCRIPTURAL AND NONSCRIPTURAL COMMENTS ON THE CROSS.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross our Lord Jesus Christ. **Paul in Galatians 6:14**

Behold the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world. **John 1:29 and Revelation 13:8**

Crucifixion was a political and military punishment. The Romans who killed Jesus used it on the lowest classes of society-slaves, violent criminals and the unruly. Crucifying an individual satisfied a lust for revenge and brought great sadistic pleasure. It was the triumph of the state. By displaying the victim naked at a prominent place, crucifixion represented the uttermost of humiliation. Often the victim's corpse was never buried so that wild beasts could feed on the carcass. From *The Meaning of the Cross* by **Martin Hengel**

O my Savior, make me see how dearly thou has paid for me. **Richard Cranshaw(1613-1649)**

Through his death on the cross, Jesus Christ not only readjusts a man in conscience and heart to God. He does something grander. He imparts to him the power to do all God wants. He presences him with divinity, the Holy Spirit, so that he is garrisoned from within and enabled to live without blame before God. **Oswald Chambers**

The world's one and only remedy is the cross. **Charles Spurgeon(1834-1892)**

God came to earth to do the one thing He could not do in heaven. Die. **Ken Gire**

Other Important Scriptures Dealing with the Cross

Mark 8:34 *Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "one thing you lack: go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.*

John 3:14 AMP *And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert [on a pole] so must[so it is necessary that] the Son of Man be lifted up [on the cross].*

John 12:32 AMP *And I, if and when I am lifted from the earth [on the cross], will draw and attract all men [Gentiles as well as Jews] to Myself.*

Romans 6:5-7 AMP *We know that our old(unrenewed) self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that [our]body [which is the instrument] of sin might no longer be the slaves of sin.*

Galatians 6:14 *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.*

Colossians 2:14 NIV *...having canceled out 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.*

Hebrews 12:2 NIV *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.*

1st Corinthians 6:19-20 *What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For you are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

**See you in Heaven!
I'll be looking for you.**

Ethel Waters