

The Meaning of the Crucifixion

Introduction

- A. Some events in history are more important than others. The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ stand at the top of the list.
- B. It is important to understand that the Bible not only states the historical fact of the Crucifixion – but also the correct meaning of that event.

"Christ died" (history) . . . "for our sins." (interpretation)
I Cor. 15:3

- I. The Crucifixion was and is a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ, Luke 24:44,46.

And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms, concerning Me . . . and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.

Observation: The Crucifixion was the goal of most of the Old Testament prophecy, Gen3:15; Isaiah 52:13-53:12.

- II. The Crucifixion was and is a testimony to the reality and the demands of God's holiness, Romans 8:3,4.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit.

Observation: Through the Crucifixion God has made a provision so that the believer can be righteous before Him.

- III. The Crucifixion was and is a testimony to the reality and the demands of God's holy law, Romans 3:25,26,31.

Whom (Jesus Christ) God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus ... Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid, yea, we establish the law.

Observation: Jesus Christ said He had come to fulfill the law, Matt. 5:17.

- IV. The Crucifixion was and is a testimony to the reality and provision of God love, I John 4: 9,10.

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Observation: The Cross is the supreme evidence that God is love and that He lives us. It is important to believe and accept this.

V. The Crucifixion was and is a testimony that God and provided a way whereby sinners can be forgiven and accepted, Ephesians 1:6,7.

To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved. In Whom (Jesus Christ) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

Observation: How can alienated and sinful people be accepted and forgiven by God? The Crucifixion makes this possible. He suffered and died in our place.

VI. The Crucifixion was and is an illustration of the judgment of non-Christians, Romans 5:9.

Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Observation: If we want to know what Hell will be like — the Crucifixion is an indication of the suffering that will be there.

VII. The Crucifixion was and is the central theme in the church's proclamation of the Gospel, I Corinthians 2:1,2.

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

Observation: The message of the church revolves around a Person -- Jesus Christ, and His work on our behalf.

VIII. The Crucifixion was and is a provision by God for the total salvation of His People, Romans 8:32.

He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall he not with Him also freely give us all things?

Observation: God has given us everything in His Son. Jesus Christ has made it possible for the believer to receive every spiritual provision.

Conclusion: What should be our response to all of this? It should be continual thanksgiving, personal dedication and daily obedience.

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