

The Wonders Of The Cross 1Corinthians 1:18-25

Wonders

Cause of surprise or astonishment; a marvel an abnormal occurrence

Cross - central fact chronology, history, prophecy, humanity, eternity

Was not accidental, but by God's plan - **Revelation 13:8**

Jesus knew he would face the cross - **John 18:4**

Cross was and must continue as central theme of preaching

Paul preached "*Christ and Him crucified*" - **1Corinthians 2:1-4**

Must be careful not make Cross of Christ of no effect - **1Corinthians 1:17**

Seeming Paradoxes

Both Human and Divine side (seeming contradictions; opposed to common sense)

Most tragic event in history yet most wonderful thing in history

Saddest spectacle man ever beheld, yet out of it came greatest joy

Satan's greatest victory - Christ's most stunning defeat, yet was Satan's greatest defeat and Christ's most glorious victory

God's greatest manifestation of hatred for sin, yet His supreme proof of His love for the sinner

Darkest hour of history, yet time of greatest light

Human vengeance as they cry for His blood, yet Divine forgiveness as Jesus prays, "*Father forgive ...*"

Man's sinfulness, God's holiness; human weakness - divine strength

Victim

Christ was and is man's best friend

As sympathetic and understanding today as he was toward those who crucified Him - **Luke 23:34**

Gave His life voluntarily - substitute for us - **1Peter 2:21; Romans 5:7-8**

In life and death Christ was perfect demonstration of unselfishness

He had no home of His own

Matthew 8:20

His time spent for others; healing the sick; teaching sinners and doing good - **Acts 10:38**

Even on the cross He thought of others

Thief - **Luke 23:43**

Mother - **John 19:26-27**

Executioners - **Luke 23:34**

Christ the innocent suffered and died for the guilty - **1Peter 2:21**

Suffered excruciating physical pain

Suffered despondency and loneliness

Forsaken by both heaven and earth

What kept him on the cross?

He could have called 12 legions of angels - **Matthew 26:53**

He came to do the Father's will - **Luke 22:42**

Christ knew there was no other way to save man

Necessity

It is difficult to comprehend Deity being under necessity, yet Jesus said it was a "must" - **John 3:14**

Why was the cross "necessary"?

Sin made it necessary because death resulted from sin

Sentence of death passed on all men from Adam - **Romans 3:23**

Man could not save himself there had to be a divine substitute - **1Peter 2:24**

The righteousness of God demanded it

God is just - could not be indifferent to sin

God is love - could not be indifferent to the sinner

Thus thru the cross God was both "*just and the justifier of those who believe in Jesus*" - **Romans 3:26**
The Old Testament needed it

The types are meaningless without the Cross - Moses lifting up the serpent has no meaning apart from the cross - **John 3:14-15**

Prophecy would be fiction without the cross - **Isaiah 53**

Cross necessary to fulfill the law - **Colossians 2:14**

Our salvation compelled it

Jesus mission was to save - **Matthew 1:21**

Only way we could be saved was for one to die in our place

Christ gave himself to that end - **Mark 10:45**

Glorious Hope

It provides peace of mind in this life. Peace With God and Of God - **Colossians 1:19-20; Philippians 4:7**

It provides assurance in death - **Philippians 1:23**

It provides a glorious eternity for the soul - **1John 3:1-3**

The beauties of heaven - **Revelation 21:3-4**

The Cross Is The Only Way

If Wonders of the Cross won't melt the heart then nothing will

The only way back to God is by way of the Cross in obedience to Christ, coming in contact with His blood he so freely gave, through the waters of baptism - **Romans 6:3-11**

Have you taken advantage of the Cross of Christ, of the fact that He died in your place that you might live?

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