

He Was Cursed For Us
The Reality of the Cross
Mark Bickel – Crossroads 4/5/09

Intro:

- **Cross for 2 weeks** – last week theological, this week personal and emotional

Recommended Reading

“The Truth of the Cross” by R.C. Sproul
“A Violent Grace” by Michael Card
“The Heart of the Cross” by Boice and Ryken
“The Cross Centered Life” by C.J. Mahaney
“The Cross Of Christ” by John R. W. Stott
“Pierced For Our Transgressions” by Jeffery, Ovey, Sach

- **Video: “Watch the Lamb”** (sign language performance)
(Raymont Anderson of BELIEVE performs Watch the Lamb at the 2005 Gallaudet University gospel concert.)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5H6tv4IUss>

- Watch the Lamb ... That is what we want to do tonight!

This Morning we sang “You Are My King”:

I'm forgiven because you were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well, Your spirit is within me
Because you died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be?
That you, my king, would die for me
Amazing love, I know it's true
Its my joy to honor you

He Was Crushed: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 ; Psalm 22

- **Last week** – atonement in blood
- Passover, Day of Atonement
- Propitiation, Substitution

note: **blood, cross etc not magical**
all about death, and the **PERSON** who died!
knick finger not count - **blood = life**

Leviticus 17:11

For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

Revelation 5:9-10

*And they sang a new song, saying,
“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
and you have made them a kingdom
and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”*

- **READ** with brief comments as we go:

ISIAH 52:13 – 53:12 (The Message)

“**J**ust watch my servant blossom!
Exalted, tall, head and shoulders above the crowd!
But he didn't begin that way.
At first everyone was appalled.
He didn't even look human—
a ruined face, disfigured past recognition.
Nations all over the world will be in awe, taken aback,
kings shocked into silence when they see him.
For what was unheard of they'll see with their own eyes,
what was unthinkable they'll have right before them.”

Who believes what we've heard and seen?
Who would have thought GOD's saving power would
look like this?

The servant grew up before God—a scrawny seedling,
a scrubby plant in a parched field.
There was nothing attractive about him,
nothing to cause us to take a second look.
He was looked down on and passed over,
a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand.
One look at him and people turned away.
We looked down on him, thought he was scum.
But the fact is, it was *our* pains he carried—
our disfigurements, all the things wrong with *us*.
We thought he brought it on himself,
that God was punishing him for his own failures.
But it was our sins that did that to him,
that ripped and tore and crushed him—*our sins*!
He took the punishment, and that made us whole.
Through his bruises we get healed.
We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten
lost.
We've all done our own thing, gone our own way.
And GOD has piled all our sins, everything we've done
wrong,
on him, on him.

He was beaten, he was tortured,
but he didn't say a word.
Like a lamb taken to be slaughtered
and like a sheep being sheared,
he took it all in silence.
Justice miscarried, and he was led off—
and did anyone really know what was happening?
He died without a thought for his own welfare,
beaten bloody for the sins of my people.
They buried him with the wicked,
threw him in a grave with a rich man,
Even though he'd never hurt a soul

or said one word that wasn't true.

Still, it's what GOD had in mind all along,
to crush him with pain.
The plan was that he give himself as an offering for sin
so that he'd see life come from it—life, life, and more
life.
And GOD's plan will deeply prosper through him.

Out of that terrible travail of soul,
he'll see that it's worth it and be glad he did it.
Through what he experienced, my righteous one, my
servant,
will make many "righteous ones,"
as he himself carries the burden of their sins.
Therefore I'll reward him extravagantly—
the best of everything, the highest honors—
Because he looked death in the face and didn't flinch,
because he embraced the company of the lowest.
He took on his own shoulders the sin of the many,
he took up the cause of all the black sheep.

Psalm 22:6-8

*But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"*

He Was Cursed: Deut. 28 ; Numbers 6:24-26 (inverted) ; Eph. 2:11-12

- More than just being crushed, he was also cursed

- When Moses gave the law he declared blessings and curses
READ: Deuteronomy 28:1-8 ... 15-20 ... 45-48 ... 58-60

- Great Jewish Benediction: Numbers 6:24-26 (22-27)

*The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,
**The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.***

“So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

- Example: Moses see God, Face Shown

- **Our Problem:** We are not of Israel, We have disobeyed, Thus we are under the curse!

Ephesians 2:11-12 – no hope, without God!

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

- **No OT Promise for us, All OT Curses for us!**

Supreme Malediction (R.C. Sproul) (Num 6:24-26 inverted)

*May The Lord Curse You and Abandon You
May the Lord keep you in darkness
And give you only judgment without grace
May the Lord turn his back upon you
And remove his peace from you forever*

That is what Christ had to take on if he was to redeem us!

He Was Hung on a Cross: Gal. 3:13, Mark 15:33-39

- Galatians 3:13-14 (quoted from Duet 21:23)

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “**Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree**”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.*

Crucifixion Supreme Curse:

READ “The Heart of the Cross” 120-121

Jesus’ Cry from the Cross: Mark 15:33-39 (Matt. 27:45-54)

*And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “**Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?**” **which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”** And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, he is calling Elijah.” And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”*

- Jesus not just quoting part of Psalm 22, or ‘feeling’ forsaken – **Jesus IS FORSAKEN**

- As God turns his back and removes peace, even **sun can not shine!** And so Christ does in darkness and shame

- In both a symbol of the end of the Temple, and as a foretaste of the victory to be seen with the resurrection, the **Temple curtain torn in two** – Christ’s rejection has shattered sin and death forever!

We are Crucified with Him: Gal. 2:20 ; Rom. 6, 8 ; Heb. 13:5

What does Christ's death mean for us?

**** If God will to Curse Son, certainly will Curse unrepentant!**

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**** If believe in Christ, Crucified with Him ...**

**** Thus Christ in me, so I can live by faith**

Romans 6: 5-11

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**** More on practical implications in next 2 weeks!**

Hebrew 13:5b-6

for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

**** Since Christ Forsaken, I will not be!**

Romans 8:1, 31-39

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

**** Jesus was condemned, so now we will never be! ****

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**** No need to fear the darkness, the curse, or anything else – Once Christ has bought us none can touch us!**

Closing:

- Sing: O Come And Mourn With Me Awhile (Jesus My Lord Is Crucified)

- READ & MEDITATE for ~5 minutes
- Looking at the Cross
- Wonderful Love of Jesus

O Come & Mourn With Me Awhile
(Our Lord Is Crucified)

Words by Frederick W. Faber Music by Eric Ashley

O Come and Mourn with me awhile
O come near to the Savior's side
O come together, let us mourn
Jesus our lord is crucified

Seven times he spoke
Seven words of love
And all three hours, his silence cried
For mercy on the souls of men
Jesus our Lord is crucified

O Love of God O sin of man
In this dread act your strength is tried
And victory remains with love
Jesus our lord is crucified

O break, O break hard heart of mind
My weak self love and guilty pride
His Pilate and his Judas were
Jesus our lord is crucified

O love of god o sin of man
In this dread act your strength is tried
And victory remains in love
Jesus our lord is crucified

O Come and mourn with me awhile
A broken heart a fount of tears
Ask and they will not be denied
A broken heart love's cradle is
Jesus our Lord is crucified (x3)
Our Lord is crucified
And victory remains with love
Jesus our lord is crucified
O love of God o sin of man
In this dread act your strength is tried
And victory remains with love
Jesus our lord is crucified

Looking at the cross by John Newton

In evil long I took delight, Unawed by shame or fear,
Till a new object struck my sight, And stopped my wild career.

I saw One hanging on a tree, In agony and blood,
Who fixed His languid eyes on me, As near His cross I stood.

Sure, never to my latest breath, Can I forget that look;
It seemed to charge me with His death, Though not a word He spoke.

My conscience felt and owned the guilt, And plunged me in despair,
I saw my sins His blood had spilt, and helped to nail Him there.

A second look He gave, which said, "I freely all forgive;
This blood is for thy ransom paid; I die that thou mayst live."

Thus, while His death my sin displays In all its blackest hue,
Such is the mystery of grace, It seals my pardon too.

Wonderful love of Christ by Isaac Watts

Come, let me love, or is my mind Hardened to stone, or froze to ice?
I see the blessed fair one bend, And stoop t' embrace me from the skies!

Oh! 'tis a thought would melt a rock And make a heart of iron move,
That those sweet lips, that heavenly look, Should seek and wish a mortal love!

I was a traitor doom'd to fire, Bound to sustain eternal pains;
He flew on wings of strong desire, Assum'd my guilt and took my chains.

Infinite grace! almighty charms! Stand in amaze, ye rolling skies!
Jesus, the God, extends his arms, Hangs on a cross of love, and dies.

Did pity ever stoop so low, Dress'd in divinity and blood?
Was ever rebel courted so, In groans of an expiring God!

Again he lives, and spreads his hands, Hands that were nail'd to torturing smart:
" By these dear wounds," says he; and stands, And prays to clasp me to his heart.

Sure I must love; or are my ears Still deaf, nor will my passions move?
Lord! melt this stubborn heart to tears; This heart shall yield to death, or love.