

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

THE CROSS PRINCIPLE

It is true that the Cross was the culmination of the earthly ministry of Jesus. It is equally true that Jesus lived His whole life according to the “Cross principle”. Explain how Jesus lived by the “Cross principle”, *Lk 9:23* _____

Jesus, in order to do the will of the Father, applied the “Cross principle” constantly – laying down all His rights. Describe the steps of the this principle in Jesus’ life from *Phil 2:7,8*. _____

“Our cross is the voluntary embracing of a path which exposes self to fresh denial, disgrace and death, and which may actually cost us our life.” L.E. Maxwell. Read: *Rom 15:3; 1Cor 9:27; Jn 12:24*.

FAITH IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST

The sinful nature that once reigned in our lives, that we inherited from Adam, was placed on the Cross in Christ. Write out *Rom 6:6,7* _____

Read *Rom 6:1-14*. We should by faith see our “old nature” nailed to the Cross, (*v11* reckon), and by so doing we will be freed from the power of the Adamic nature. As we live by faith in what God has done on the Cross, we will live victoriously. We will not be living by the old Adamic nature, but in complete identification with the victory of Jesus over sin, the world and the devil. *Col 3:1-10; Eph 2:1-6*.

Study Ten: The Cross

In this study we are going to consider the different aspects of truth presented in the New Testament to do with the Cross.

The Death of Jesus

The very essence of the Gospel is that Jesus laid aside His eternal power and glory, came to earth as a man, lived a perfectly sinless life and humbled Himself to die on a Cross as our substitute. He received the punishment and judgment that should rightly be ours because of the sins we have committed. The hymn writer has described the Cross as “the place where heavenly love and heavenly justice meet.”

THE “OFFENCE OF THE CROSS”

This is a term that Paul uses in *Gal 5:11*, to describe the world’s attitude toward the person who is trusting what Jesus has done for him in order to be saved. The Cross attacks the pride of man who imagines that he can save himself by doing “good works” and living a “good life”, *Is 64:6*. Man says that somehow it is possible for him to reimburse God for the debt of sin and be reckoned righteous on the basis of what he can do for God.

The Cross is therefore seen as “foolishness” or as a “stumbling block”, *1Cor 1:23*. For 2,000 years people have used poetry, music and art to try and beautify that which was the ugliest instrument of death in the ancient world. They try to remove the “offense” from the Cross in order to appeal to the “wisdom of men.”

WHAT THE LORD JESUS ACCOMPLISHED ON THE CROSS

1. On the Cross Jesus reconciled us (even the whole universe) to God, *Col 1:19-23, Rom 5:10*.
2. On the Cross Jesus abolished the law of commandments and ordinances, reconciling both Jew and Gentile to God. *Eph 2:11-22*.
3. On the Cross Jesus cancelled the demands of the law against us; He disarmed and defeated principalities and powers (satan); He brought us to fulness of life, having forgiven all our trespasses, *Col 2:9-23*.
4. On the Cross Jesus tasted death for every man that He might destroy him who has the power of death (satan), and deliver us from the fear of death, *Heb 2:9-18*.
5. By His death on the Cross, a “new testament” or will is in effect for us, *Heb 8:8-13*.
6. On the Cross, Jesus offered the perfect and final sacrifice for sins, and by a single sacrifice he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified, *Heb 10:5-25*.

THE BENEFITS OF THE CROSS

The benefits of the Cross are those gifts that Jesus has given to us as a result of His death at Calvary. Write out *Is 53:5*.

1. **Forgiveness of sins and eternal life.**
“He was wounded for our transgressions”. What does *1Jn 1:7* say about the blood of Jesus? _____
Because Jesus became sin for us, we can now stand in the presence of a holy God just as if we had never sinned. *2Cor 5:21*.
2. **Deliverance from inbred iniquities.**
“He was bruised for our iniquities.” Iniquity is that basic instinct of rebellion and evil with which we are all born, that

causes us to transgress the law. We “were by nature the children of wrath,” *Eph 2:3*. Such things as the tendency to lie, steal, cheat, gamble, exaggerate, gossip, covet, hate, lust, greed and jealousy can be described as iniquity. Even though iniquity is only the breeding ground for sin, we must be forgiven for our iniquity because God looks on the heart, *1Sam 16:7; Mat 5:28; 1Jn 3:20,21*.

Write out *Ps 66:18* _____

When Jesus was crucified on the Cross, each one of us was crucified there with Him, *Gal 2:20*. We died with Him, were buried with Him, and when He was raised up, we also were raised up to walk in newness of life, *Rom 6:3-8*. In this way we are delivered from the old nature of sin and iniquity, *Rom 6:6,11*.

3. **Peace for the mind and heart**

Peace is freedom from that which disturbs order, security and harmony between people, or in the human mind. How did Jesus provide peace for us? *Col 1:20* _____

As a result of the Cross we can find peace with God...i.e. a close relationship with Him whereas previously there was enmity between Him and us! *Rom 5:1; 8:6, Jn 14:27*.

When we have **peace with God** the way is open for **His peace to be in us**. What are the steps to experiencing God’s peace in our lives? *Phil 4:6,7* _____

4. **Healing for the body**

“With His stripes we are healed”, *Is 53:5, 1Pet 2:24*. We know that this refers to physical healing, for this verse is used in *Mat 8:17*. As the body of Jesus was whipped and His blood flowed, He was made to feel and carry the agony of all mankind’s diseases. He became the substitute for our sickness and sin.