

**The Love of God  
In The Cross of Christ**

# Jesus

'He came to pay a debt He didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay'

Song: *Jesus Paid It All*

Gal.6<sup>14</sup> But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world

Gal.6<sup>12</sup> As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ

One cross stands out:  
the cross of Jesus

# I. Three Uses of 'Cross'

# 1. Wooden cross on which Lord was nailed

- Ph.2:8
- This is not the cross in which Paul gloried
- Paul would detest the idea of glorying in a piece of wood; He would denounce the adoration of a crucifix as blasphemy and idolatry

## 2. Afflictions and trials of believers

- Mt.10:38, cross: conflict. [34: sword...]
- Paul knew this cross well; he carried it patiently; but this is not the cross that saves
- Gal.5:11, if I still preach circumcision, why does I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased

‘The **old** cross slew men; the **new** cross entertains them. The **old** cross condemned; the **new** cross amuses. The **old** cross destroyed confidence in the flesh; the **new** cross encourages it.’

### 3. Doctrine that Christ died for sinners on cross

- His atonement for sinners (Ro.5:11, KJV)
- His perfect sacrifice for sin when He gave His body to be crucified [**Christ crucified**]
- 1 Co.1:18, message of the cross
  - Nu.21
  - Jn.3
- Gal.6:14, God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world

I. Three Uses of 'Cross'

II. Who Did Christ Die For?

# Jesus died for His Father

- Isa.43:7, created for God's glory
- 1 Co.10:31, do all to His glory
- Failure to live for God's glory is the essence of sin. Ro.3:23
  - Most seek glory of . . .
    - Money
    - Possessions
    - Power
    - Popularity



# Jesus died for His Father

- We fall short when we exchange His glory for something of lesser value
- All sin attacks God's glory
- Mt.4:8-10

# Jesus died for His Father

- Satan's artificial 'glory' cannot compare to God's actual glory
  - Lk.2:9, 14, 32, Lord's true glory
  - Lk.4:...5-8, satan's cheap glory
  - Lk.9:28-32, His glory
  - Col.2:15, satan meets his end

- Col.2:15, satan meets his end
  - We are surrounded by satan's army
  - Sin is everywhere
  - Satan *seems* to be winning
  - But things are not as they seem
  - Our enemy was defeated at Calvary
  - In due time, all will know the war is won
  - In the meantime...do not lose hope

‘That paganism would be supplanted by Christianity in three centuries is an acknowledged wonder of history’ – Strong

## Good News

- God wants to forgive our sins, Ac.2:38
- His forgiveness forces a dilemma:
  - How can God forgive sins without compromising His glory? Ro.3:23-26
    - His crucifixion demonstrates His righteousness
    - He forgives people who sinned against Him...if they obey Him, Ro.6
    - God cannot trivialize sin...

‘God requires satisfaction because He is holiness; He makes satisfaction because He is love’

## Propitiation (Ro.3:25)

- Sacrifice that satisfies God's wrath against sinners
- On cross: Jesus paid penalty for sin
- Jn.18:11 . . . 2 Co.5:21

'The death of Christ is the wisdom of God by which the love of God saves sinners from the wrath of God, and all the while upholds and demonstrates the righteousness of God.'

- The cross demonstrates the infinite worth of God's glory

## Jesus died for sinners

- Horrors of cross show greatness of His love
- God is spirit (Jn.4:24), light (1 Jn.1:5), love (1 Jn.4:8)

‘Christianity: the only religion that sets forth the Supreme Being as love. Heathen religions depict Him as an angry being in constant need of appeasing’ (ISBE)

## Objects of God's love

- His Son, Mt.3:17
- Believers, Jn.16:27
- The world, 1 Jn.2:2
  - General: Jn.3:16, whoever...
  - Special: Gal.2:20
- Supreme manifestation of His love: Ro.5:6-10

'All heaven is interested in the cross of Christ, all hell is terribly afraid of it, while men are the only beings who more or less ignore its meaning'