

# The Message of the Cross

- Crux: cross
- Unmentionable in polite Roman society
- Crucifixion: ‘hang him on the unlucky tree’  
– Cicero
- Early Christians did not hide crucifixion of Jesus  
– they boasted in it.
- Gal.6:14, God forbid that I should boast except  
in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

# I. The Message of the Cross, 1 Co.1:18

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God – 1 Co.1:18

- Mt.10:38

- The cross weeds out insincerity.

- 'There are no crown-wearers in heaven who were not cross-bearers here below.'

- Paul ***boasted*** in the cross [Gal.6:14]

- Mt.16:21-23...

I. The Message of the Cross

II. The Meaning of  
the Cross

# His cross says something about . . .

1. **Sacrifice.** Mk.15:21 . . . 30.

2. **Shame.** Ph.2:8.

humiliation...excruciation...rejection...love

- Men: Jn.19:31

- God: Mt.27:46

3. **Sin (we, not He).**

God cannot ignore our sin

We pay for our sin (Lk.12:58-59)

God pays for our sin (cross). Ro.3.

Mt.18:...30

# His cross says something about . . .

1. Sacrifice. Mk.15:21...30. Jn.12:32-33
2. Shame. Ph.2:7-8. Jn.19:31. Mt.27:46
3. Sin (we, not He).
4. **Savior.** 1 Pt.1:18 – sin...life...blood...Lamb...
5. **Suppression.** Col.2:14
6. **Sentence.** Mt.25:46

I. The Message of the Cross

II. The Meaning of the Cross

III. The Mark of  
the Cross

# Gal.6:17

1. Joy, Ep.2:16
2. Sanctification, Ph.3:18
3. Boasting, Gal.6:14

Cross is not mere wood on which He died

Cross is not a sign

**Cross is His suffering for the Lost**

Some wanted a Messiah to  
conquer Rome . . . but not their sins

Judaizers boasted in the flesh (Gal.6:13)

Paul boasted . . . NOT in his good deeds . . .  
NOT in his knowledge . . . NOT in his leadership  
skills . . . But IN the cross

# Why boast?

1. Revealed God's love to world. Ro.3; 6
2. Replaced God's wrath with mercy
3. Renounced world for cross

## Three crosses (Gal.6:14)

**Cross 1:** Christ's  
Jews mocked only one cross

**Cross 2:** world . . . to me  
Paul viewed world as man on cross. Lk.23

**Cross 3:** Paul . . . to world  
Paul died to values of world

# Boasters

Jews: “children of Abraham” – Ph.3:4, 7

Pharisees: “separated; superior”

Judaizers: “flesh” – Gal.6:12

We can't boast in ourselves and  
the cross at the same time [Ga.5:24]

# Why boast?

1. Revealed God's love to world.
2. Replaced God's wrath with mercy
3. Renounced world for cross
4. Rescued from doom. Ro.5:6-8

# 1 Co.1:18

1. Cross: suffering and death... Hb.12:2
2. Crucified man is powerless. 1 Co.1:18
  - a. Jesus died with criminals...but arose.
  - b. Jesus is glorified – every knee will bow.
3. Not always fair: robbers received their just deserts; Jesus was sinless.
  - a. Ac.25:11, Paul appealed to Caesar
  - b. 2 Tim.4:6-8 . . .
4. Deterrent. Avoid crime; seek salvation