JESUS – THE CROSS

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-2 – TEXT

**INTRODUCTION** – **READ TEXT** – Paul as an inspired man understood that the death of Jesus, his crucifixion on the cross, was a pivotal point in the history of mankind

**1 COR. 15:1-4** – Paul understood and the Bible teaches us that the cross of Christ is the heart of the gospel. Without the cross, Jesus is not the Christ and the gospel is not the good news.

**LUKE 24:25-27** – We need to fully appreciate the importance of the cross in God’s scheme for redeeming man, We must understand that the cross is the central focal point in God’s plan of salvation for mankind.

The purpose of our lesson today is to come to more fully appreciate the importance if the cross in the scheme of redemption and its role in our salvation.

 ***JESUS – THE CROSS***

1. **THE NECESSITY OF THE CROSS**
	1. **ROM. 5:6 –** Our salvation could not have been made possible without the cross. It was necessary for Christ to do for us what we could have never done for ourselves.
	2. **MATT. 26:39, 42 –** Jesus experienced the cup of suffering for us on the cross because it was not possible for our sins to be forgiven any other way.
	3. **HEB. 5:7-9** – Jesus had to suffer on the cross to be perfected thru suffering so he could be the only sacrifice that could take away our sins. Thru his suffering and death on the cross he became the author of our eternal salvation if we are willing to obey him.
2. **THE DEATH OF THE CROSS**
	1. **GEN. 3:15** – Messianic Prophecy of Christ victory over Satan by overcoming death on the cross and being raised from the dead.
	2. **2 TIM. 1:10 –** Christ defeated death by dying for us. He gave us victory and life by submitting to the death of the cross and then being resurrected. Jesus gave us glory by submitting to the shame of the cross and he gave us victory and life by submitting to death.
	3. **2 COR. 5:21** – Jesus with no sins of his own accepted the penalty of death for our sins. We deserved to die in our sins but Jesus died for us. He loved us enough to substitute himself as the sacrifice for our sins by his death on the cross.
3. **THE BLOOD OF THE CROSS**
	1. **LEV. 17:10-14** – It is a principle as old as the earth that life is in the blood. The blood that Jesus shed for us on the cross cleanses us from sin.
	2. **ROM. 6:23** – The requirement that the wages of sin is death means when sin has been committed – death must occur and blood must be shed to satisfy the demands of justice – I.E. – Animal sacrifices of the O.T. – Life was taken and blood was shed to atone for sins until the ultimate sacrifice of Christ (the Lamb of God) on the cross.
	3. **HEB. 9:11-15** – The shedding of the blood of Christ on Calvary truly atoned for the sins of the world.
	4. **REV. 1:5 –** Only the blood of Christ shed on the cross can cleanse the stain of sin from our souls. If we remove the cross and the shedding of the blood of Christ there is no salvation. Song we sing “What Can Wash Away My Sins?
4. **THE LOVE OF THE CROSS**
	1. **JN. 3:14-17** – God’s love is shown by the gift of his Son.
	2. **JN. 10:17-18** – Going to the cross also required a great deal of love on the part of Jesus. He had to leave the glory of heaven to come to earth and be robed in the flesh.
	3. **2 COR**. **5:14-15** – The love exemplified by Christ on the cross should compel (motivate) us to give ourselves to faithfully serving him.
	4. **1 JN. 4:10-11** – The love of Christ displayed on the cross should prompt us to love him and one another.
	5. **JN**. **14:!5** - The love of the cross should compel us to be faithfully obedient to the Lord. Since Jesus dies for us we should live for him.
5. **THE PREACHING OF THE CROSS**
	1. **1 COR. 15:1-8** – We should want to share the message of the cross. To preach the gospel is to preach the message of the cross - D/B/R
	2. **ACTS 2:36-39** – The preaching of the cross is the message that Jesus is both Lord and Christ. It also announces the conditions of acceptance of this message.
	3. **JN. 12:32 –** It is the cross and only the cross by which Jesus draws all men to him.
	4. **2 TIM. 2:2** – If we are grateful what will we do?

**CONCLUSION** –

Do you understand the significance of Jesus and the cross?

Have you been baptized into the death of Jesus? **ROM. 6:3-4**

Are you crucified with Christ? **GAL. 2:20 –** If so you should be living by faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

Always remember the cross and be willing to put Jesus first in your life!