

WONDERS OF THE CROSS

1Cor 1:17-21

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Wonder - a cause of surprise or astonishment; a marvel an abnormal occurrence
- B. The cross central fact of chronology, history, prophecy, humanity, and eternity
 - 1. Was not accidental, but by God's plan Rev 13:8
 - 2. Jesus knew he would face the cross Jhn 18:4
- C. Cross was and must continue as central theme of preaching
 - 1. Paul preached "Christ and Him crucified" 1Cor 2:1-4
 - 2. Be careful not to make Cross of Christ of non effect 1Cor 1:17-21
- D. **Title** In this study want to consider some "Wonders of the Cross"

DISCUSSION:

I. THE WONDER OF IT'S SEEMING PARADOXES both human and divine side (Seeming contradictions; opposed to common sense)

- A. Most tragic event yet most wonderful event in history Matt 27:23; Acts 2:11
- B. Saddest spectacle man ever beheld, yet out of it came the greatest joy 3Jhn 1:4
- C. Satan's greatest victory - Christ's most stunning defeat, yet was Satan's greatest defeat and Christ's most glorious victory Gen 3:15
- D. God's greatest manifestation of hatred for sin, yet supreme proof of His love for the sinner Jhn 3:16
- E. Darkest hour of history, yet time of greatest light Jhn 1:8-9
- F. Human vengeance as they cry for His blood Matt 27:22-25, yet Divine forgiveness: "Father forgive them..." Lk 23:34
- G. See man's sinfulness, God's holiness; human weakness and divine strength.

II. THE WONDER OF IT'S VICTIM

- A. Christ was and is man's best friend
 - 1. He is as sympathetic and understanding today as he was toward those who crucified Him Lk 23:34
 - 2. He gave His life voluntarily as a substitute for us 1Pet 2:21; Rom 5:7,8
- B. In life and death Christ was the perfect demonstration of unselfishness
 - 1. He had no home of His own Matt 8:20
 - 2. His time spent for others; healing the sick; teaching sinners and doing good Acts 10:38
 - 3. Even on cross He thought of others; Thief Lk 23:43 Mother Jhn 19:26,27; Executioners Lk 23:34
- C. Christ the innocent suffered & died for the guilty 1Pet 2:21
 - 1. Suffered excruciating physical pain

- 2. Suffered despondency and loneliness
- 3. Forsaken by both heaven and earth
- D. What kept him on the cross? Matt 26:53
 - 1. He could have called 12 legions of angels
 - 2. He came to do the Father's will Lk 22:42
 - 3. Christ knew there was no other way to save man

III. THE WONDER OF IT'S NECESSITY

- A. It is difficult to comprehend Deity being under necessity, yet Jesus said it was a **"must"** Jhn 3:14
- B. "Necessary" because of sin
 - 1. Made necessary because death resulted from sin
 - 2. Sentence of death passed on all men from Adam
 - 3. Since all have sinned Rom 3:23 & man could not save himself: had to be a divine substitute 1Pet 2:24
- C. The righteousness of God demanded it
 - 1. God is just - could not be indifferent to sin
 - 2. God is love - could not be indifferent to the sinner
 - 3. Thus thru the cross God was both "just and the justifier of those who believe in Jesus" Rom 3:26
- D. The Old Testament needed it
 - 1. The types are meaningless without the Cross - Moses lifting up the serpent has no meaning apart from the cross Jhn 3:14
 - 2. Prophecy would be fiction without the cross Isa 53
 - 3. Cross necessary to fulfill the law Col 2:14
- E. Our salvation compelled it
 - 1. Jesus mission was to save Matt 1:21
 - 2. Only way we could be saved was for someone to die in our place
 - 3. Christ gave himself to that end Mk 10:45

IV. THE WONDER OF IT'S GLORIOUS HOPE

- A. It provides peace of mind in this life. Peace **WITH** God and **OF** God Col 1:20; Phil 4:7
- B. It provides assurance in death Phil 1:23
- C. It provides a glorious eternity for the soul 1Jhn 3:1-3; The beauties of heaven described in Rev 21:3,4

CONCLUSION:

- A. If Wonders of Cross won't melt the heart then nothing will
- B. The only way back to God is by way of the Cross in obedience to Christ, coming in contact with His blood he so freely gave, through the waters of baptism Rom 6:3-11
- C. Tell story of sickness that covered the land and doctors had to find someone immune to the disease and use their blood to make a cure for the dread disease - a young boy was found and because of humanity he died.
- D. Have you taken advantage of the Cross of Christ, of the fact that He died in your place that you might live?