

We are blessed to know that, when we repent of our sins and put our complete faith and trust in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, we are dead to the world and alive to God: Romans 6:11 *Like-wise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Everything in the past has died on the cross of Christ, and all things are new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

So, let our minds go back to the cross and rehearse in our minds what Jesus Christ has done for us who believe. He has lived a perfect life, died a perfect death, paid for our sins, given us a new life (an eternal life), and he promises to be with us and to never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

My prayer is that, if you are not born again (saved) by the Spirit of God, that you will see yourself a sinner and come to Jesus by his grace and trust him with your whole heart. The new birth changes you, and you will begin to hate the world system and begin to love the things of God: his word (the Bible), his church, his doctrine, and all that has to do with serving and praising him.

Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.* June 4, 2018

**Service Schedule**

Sunday School . . . . . 10:00 AM  
Preaching Service . . . . . 11:00 AM  
Wednesday . . . . . 7:00 PM

**First Baptist Church**

P. O. Box 201  
Harrison, OH 45030-0201  
(513) 367-6713

# The Value Of The Cross

When the cross is considered, it is assumed that our minds will immediately go to the cross on which Jesus died. That work that he did on the cross was one of the most tremendous miracles that has ever taken place. This gives great value to the work of Christ on the cross.

When Paul speak of the cross in Galatians 6:14 *But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world,* he is speaking, not of the wooden cross alone but of the act of redemption that Jesus brought about through his death on the cross. Again, this gives great value to the cross of Jesus Christ.

Some people, however, put great value on the cross itself, not taking into consideration the act of God when Jesus was on the cross, bruising Jesus

*By Dr. Ronnie Wolfe  
Pastor, First Baptist Church  
115 S. Hill Street - P. O. Box 201  
Harrison, OH 45030  
513) 367-6713*

for our transgressions and bringing us (those of us who believe) into reconciliation to God and imputing righteousness to believers by his legal declaration that all who believe are righteous, not by our own righteousness but of that righteousness which God imputes to us through his Son, Jesus.

Lost of the world are going about to establish their own righteousness — Romans 10:3 *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.* It must be the righteousness of God through his Son, Jesus, that brings us to God. Philippians 3:9 *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

Some people put much confidence in the small crosses made from wood, silver, gold, or plastic; but the cross of Christ is not a cross that you put around your neck or that you wear on your wrist on a bracelet or even one that you may build and display in your yard or out in a field.

The cross of Christ has more value than that. His cross was an experience, not just a thing, a cross that stood on a hill far away. References to the cross in the Bible are references to a work of God through Jesus, who took my sins upon himself and died the death of the cross (Philippians 2:8). This death was an individual and exclusive death upon that one cross which was designed just for Jesus. Its significance is not in the wood of which it is made but upon the body that God prepared to die upon it.

That is why many people oppose the cross and

what it means. It is not the cross itself (the wooden cross) but the preaching of the cross (the work of Christ upon it) that causes people to oppose it.

1 Corinthians 1:18 *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.* The wooden cross has no power in it, so we are not to trust the cross around the neck or the trinket in a box. We are only to trust the One who died on that wooden cross, turn from our sins, and believe upon the one who died that we might have life.

Paul was intent upon preaching the cross. So he says in the text above (1 Cor. 1:18). If he does not preach it, then there is no offense of the cross. It is only when we preach the cross (and the one who died upon it) that brings an offense. See Galatians 5:11 *And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.* Paul in these verse says that he may preach circumcision for salvation; then the Jews would not be offensive to him. But if he preaches the cross, the offense will come. The world hates the message of the cross and the Gospel, which expresses Christ's work on the cross, his burial, and his resurrection.

There are also enemies of the cross: Philippians 3:18 *(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:* These enemies love their own works and righteousness. They belittle God and Christ and try to bring them down to man's level. They do not see the miracle in the work of Jesus on the cross, so they disdain the cross and all for which it stands.

So, we may have to suffer persecution because

of the cross of Christ, because we preach it to every creature. Each man, woman, boy, and girl needs to hear the good news of the cross of Jesus Christ, not of its looks or of its monetary price or beauty, but on its worth because of what transpired upon it through Jesus Christ. Galatians 6:12 *As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.*

To believe the Gospel, then, is not to be baptized, to join a local church, to do the best you can, or to learn much theology. To believe the Gospel means that you believe what it teaches us, that Jesus Christ died, was buried, and resurrected the third day according to the scriptures (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

Otherwise the cross of Christ is of no effect: 1 Corinthians 1:17 *For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.*

When the cross is believed and applied to a life in the correct way, it makes a change in a person, dividing him from the world and giving him a love for Christ, his word, and his work. Galatians 6:14 *But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*

When Jesus was crucified, I was crucified with him, and that crucifixion both kills me to the flesh and gives me life eternal. Galatians 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*