



5 minutes / 5 days

BIBLE CENTER CHURCH

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The Cross: History's Supreme Moment

Only God can make the horrible heavenly, the despicable delightful, and the gruesome gracious. Only God can turn a symbol of Roman torture and death into a symbol of hope and new life. Stand with me at Calvary and consider the Cross of Christ.

MONDAY

The Wonder of the Cross

Galatians 6:14

Some are made of silver, others of Gold. Emeralds, rubies, sapphires; earrings, tie tacks, and brooches. Most are seen as necklaces worn by untold millions of people—from priests to politicians to punk rockers. For many, it's just jewelry. For those who know Jesus, it's a symbol of the unbounded love that God showed through His Son. John 3:16 says, *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* (NIV)

The beauty of the crosses we see belies its original purpose. That beauty is false, contrived, man-made, misleading. The real *beauty* of the cross is simply that "God gave..." The real *wonder* is that God did it for me—and you.

FOR TODAY: Read Romans 5:10 and give Him the glory.

TUESDAY

The Journey to the Cross

John 1:1-14

The Italians call it the Via Dolorosa, the Way of Sorrows. Many trace the footsteps of Jesus through the narrow streets, reenacting the journey to Calvary. But Jesus' journey did not begin at the door of Pilate's prison. It began at the very gates of Heaven. We joyously celebrate *Immanuel, God With Us* and blithely separate the manger from the cross. But the two are inextricably linked. Take another look as you stand at Calvary.

There's no rejoicing there. No sounds of a newborn's first cries. No angels, no shepherds, no oxen, no star. Just criss-crossed, rough-hewn timbers, blood stained, gritty. Filled with holes that trace the outlines of those who once hung there. Empty now; but listen closely. Awful sounds fall on your mind's ear and jar your complacency. But Jesus knew the destination before he began the trip. In Max Lucado's wonderful words, *He chose the nails.* And He did it for me—and you.

FOR TODAY: Share the gift and give Him the glory.

WEDNESDAY

The Sacrifice On the Cross

Hebrews 9:22

The standard was very high: the lamb was to be "spotless, without blemish." The principle was very clear: only the pure, innocent, and holy could redeem the guilty and defiled. Only the sinless could redeem the sinful; only the Perfect could redeem the imperfect. Only God could meet the standards of God. Hebrews 9:22 says, *without the shedding of blood, there is no remission.*

So Jesus came, and John the Baptist hailed him with, *Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.* Only the giving of life could meet the standards of the Giver of Life, and Jesus came. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. And Jesus came, and *He (God the Father) hath made Him (God the Son) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him* (2 Corinthians 5:21.) And He did it for me—and you.

FOR TODAY: Live out Romans 12:1.

THURSDAY

The Power of The Cross

John 10:10b

The whole world stands with us at Calvary and looks up at three crosses. The one in the center tells the story of God's infinite love; another tells the story of forgiveness and salvation; another tells the story of man's refusal to believe and accept the gift of life through Christ.

Those who do not know Jesus as Savior scoff at the profound simplicity of God's plan of redemption. Those who have received God's grace know the riches and depth of God's love. To others, the cross is foolishness. Still, the truth remains that Jesus came that we might have life and that we might have it more abundantly. Jesus endured the cross, despising its shame...And He did it for me—and for you.

FOR TODAY: Share Rev. 3:20 with a lost soul.

FRIDAY

The Victory of the Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18

Even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a **ransom** for **many**. Out of death comes new life in Christ. Those standing there at the foot of the cross heard Jesus' words, It Is Finished, and assumed that He had died. Jesus did not die as we think of dying. Instead, he chose to lay down His life. It was a deliberate, conscious, love-laden choice.

Jesus came and turned the supreme symbol of death into the supreme symbol of life. He conquered death and hell and the grave, and rose again that we might know life anew through Him. And he did it for me—and for you.

FOR TODAY: Read through Romans 5; live through Romans 5

