

Think On This



Four Lessons from The Cross

The single most important event that has ever occurred in the history of mankind is the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus which enables one to have reconciliation with God, thus giving a person the hope of eternal life. Paul states, ***“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”*** (1st Corinthians 15:3-4) Paul also states, ***“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*** (Romans 6:23) Let us take a moment to reflect upon four lessons from the cross.

(1) The cross - Price Paid for My Sins --- It is important to remember that man departed from God by engaging in sin. This is evident from such verses as **Isaiah 59:1-2**, **Ephesians 2:1-2**, and **Romans 3:23**. Therefore, man needed to be reconciled to God. However, man was unable to provide a suitable sacrifice that would bring about reconciliation. The Hebrew writer declares, ***“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”*** (Hebrews 10:4) Peter states, ***“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*** (1st Peter 1:18-19) Reflection upon the cross should remind us of the enormous price that was paid for our sins.

(2) The cross - The Love of God --- As I meditate about the cross, I am made aware of the love God shows towards mankind. God did not owe us salvation, rather we deserved condemnation. (Romans 6:23) Yet God's love is demonstrated by action as we read, ***“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*** (Romans 5:8) John states, ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*** (John 3:16) The cross is a bold reminder of God's wonderful love.

(3) The cross - The Love of Christ --- Jesus was willing to die upon the cross for me. Jesus states, ***“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”*** (John 10:17-18) Jesus could have stopped the events that led to His crucifixion, but He didn't! (Matthew 26:52-54) The cross magnifies Christ's love for us.

(4) The cross - A Source of Motivation --- Paul sums it up best as he states, ***“For the love of Christ constrains us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”*** (2nd Corinthians 5:14-15) Whatever you or I are instructed to do within the scriptures does not compare to the sacrifice made in our behalf. Praise God!

* * * * Chuck Kozens