

## ***THE WONDROUS CROSS OF CHRIST***

*(John 19:28-30)*

The good news that our Lord Jesus died for our sins should be of first importance to every Christian (1 Cor. 15:1-5). This gospel about the Cross of Christ is that one essential truth that defines our life and our ministry. In the midst of the world's sheer neglect of the glory of the Cross, we who are in Christ should constantly remind ourselves that the ground of our salvation is this one truth which declares that "Christ died for our sins." As we survey the wondrous Cross of Christ, let's consider the significance of our Lord's atoning death.

1. ***The Cross of Christ signifies*** \_\_\_\_\_.  
Our Lord Jesus, while He was dying on the Cross, was actually accomplishing the fulfillment of the prophecies of Scriptures concerning Himself as the Messiah (John 19:28-29). The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus' death on the Cross did not happen as an accident. Our Lord did not die as a victim of tragic circumstances. Every single detail concerning Christ's suffering and death was predicted and prophesied in the Scriptures even before it happened. Jesus' betrayal, arrest, crucifixion between two criminals, mockery and humiliation and even His experience of thirst all took place to fulfill the Scriptures (Ps. 41:9; Zech. 11:13; Matt. 26:52-54; Isa. 53:7; Jn. 19:17-18; Ps. 22:16; Isa. 53:12; Jn. 19:23; Ps. 22:18; 69:21; 31:5). We have a Savior who loves the Scriptures, who honors the authority of God's Word and who is faithful in fulfilling every prophecy concerning Himself, all for the cause of redeeming God's people (Matt. 5:17-18).

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2. ***The Cross of Christ signifies*** \_\_\_\_\_.  
Before Jesus breathed His last, He cried, "I thirst" (John 19:28). Jesus' bodily sufferings which included His physical thirst demonstrates His full humanity. Jesus' physical thirst was also a manifestation of His intense spiritual suffering when He was utterly forsaken by God on account of our sins (Matt. 27:46; Isa. 53:4-6; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 3:18). The Cross of Christ is the clearest demonstration of God's wrath upon sin that He had to forsake His own Son. The Cross is also the ultimate demonstration of God's love for us, because in the forsaking of His Son, we who trust in Christ, are forever accepted and loved by God.

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3. ***The Cross of Christ signifies*** \_\_\_\_\_.  
When our Lord Jesus said, "It is finished," it means that He has paid the full measure of God's punishment for our sins (John 19:30). All our sins have been stamped by God with this one word: forgiven. Jesus has fully accomplished the work the Father has sent Him to do. The sacrifice for our sins has been offered. The price for our deliverance from sin has been paid. Satan is defeated. God's righteousness, holiness and justice have been upheld and satisfied. Therefore, the grace of salvation is forever sealed in the hearts of every believer of Christ (Eph. 1:7; Rom. 5:9-10; Heb. 10:12-14).

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