

Matt. 27:46: And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Intro: 1 Cor. 2:2: For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ & Him crucified.

- **Gal. 6:14:** But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (**Love! Love! Love!**)

Jesus was treated like a disowned son on that cross, so that you might be adopted as God's sons & daughters forever! Jesus was truly & objectively forsaken by God on that cross so that you will never be forsaken by God for all eternity! God was angry with Jesus on that cross, so that He will never be angry with you but delight in you for all eternity! On that cross, Jesus endured the damnation of God that you deserve, so that you will never face damnation!

The applications of the cross are numerous (infinite!), but here are some of them:

1. The Cross Shows Us The Holiness, Righteousness, & Justice Of God

Rom. 3:23-26: for all have sinned & fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ & are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just & the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

a. God cannot & will not sweep sin under the rug: Every sin will be punished! God cannot & will not just forgive sin & let it go without a payment for that sin (Islam has no just forgiveness of sins!).

b. God is a righteous Judge: look at the text of Romans 3

c. Take heart: all your sins have been paid for in full & there's no more hell to pay! Jesus paid it all!

d. Take heart: every wrong you have suffered will be paid for: Either on the cross or in hell.

- **Rom. 12:19-21:** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

e. Take heart: God is an work in you making you more & more holy: We are born unholy, unrighteous, & unjust! We are born sinners: **GOSPEL!**

- **Phil 1:6:** I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ

- **Phil. 2:12-13:** work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- **Rom. 8:29:** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

We should be holy, righteous, & just people: we pay our taxes, we work for the right amount of hours, we tell the truth, we obey laws, we tell the truth (social media), we care about injustices in the world; we want Micah 6:8

2. The Cross Shows Us The Evil And Wickedness Of Sin

- **Ps. 5:4-6:** For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.⁵ The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.⁶ You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

- **Prov. 6:16-19:** There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him:¹⁷ haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil,¹⁹ a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

- **Rev. 21:8:** But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, & all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire & sulfur, which is the second death.

You are so bad, & your sin is so bad, that God had to kill His own perfect, spotless, innocent Son to save you!

Howard's Point: In light of what Jesus suffered, how much worse will it be for those who reject Christ!

- **Heb. 10:26-31:** For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Application: Hate sin & flee from it: **Ps. 97:10:** O you who love the LORD, hate evil!

Charles Spurgeon: If Christ has died for me, I cannot trifle with the evil that killed my best Friend.

3. The Cross Shows Us The Sovereignty Of God In Suffering

- **Acts 2:22-24:** Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works & wonders & signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know – ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan & foreknowledge of God, you crucified & killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

- **Acts 4:27-28:** for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

What men & Satan meant for evil, God meant for good! If God takes the greatest evil (by far!) to ever happen in the world, & He means it for good, what horrible situation in your life can God not also do the same thing? If you are a Christian, God means for all the bad & evil & heartbreak & sadness & hard things that happen to you in life – God means them for good! Rom. 8:28! Rom. 8:32!

- **Rom. 5:3-5:** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

- **Jas. 1:2-4:** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. & let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect & complete, lacking in nothing.

- **Rom. 8:18:** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

- **Rev. 22:1-5:** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God & of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God & of the Lamb will be in it, & his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, & his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ & night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, & they will reign forever & ever.

4. The Cross Shows Us An Actual Atonement

Matt. 1:21: She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Jesus truly endured all the damnation that we deserve so that there truly is no more hell to pay! Jesus paid it all!

5. The Cross Shows Us The Unified Work Of The Triune God

The Triune God chose to save sinners! The Father chose a people to save. He gave them to the Son! The Son came & died & rose for those people the Father chose. And the Holy Spirit regenerates & sanctifies those people!

a. The Covenant of Redemption: Kevin DeYoung: the covenant of redemption – or in Latin, the *pactum salutis* – refers to the eternal agreement between the Father & the Son to save a people chosen in Christ before the ages began. In slightly more detail, Louis Berkhof describes the covenant of redemption as “the agreement between the Father, giving the Son as Head & Redeemer of the elect, & the Son, voluntarily taking the place of those whom the Father had given him” (Systematic Theology, 271). In traditional Reformed theology, the *pactum* has been a critically important doctrine, helping to make sense of (& hold together) election in Christ, God’s activity in history, & the intra-trinitarian love of God. It has also been a pastoral doctrine meant to give the believer confidence that because our covenant relationship with God has its origin in the Father’s pre-temporal covenant relationship with the Son, we do not have to merit our salvation but can rest secure in Christ our Surety . . . there is good evidence in Scripture for a salvation pact between the Father & the Son. We know that the elect were chosen, not out of thin air, but in Christ before the foundations of the world. We know that promises were made to Christ that he would be given a people by the Father (John 6:38-40; cf. 5:30, 43; 17:4-12). We know that Christ, as the second Adam, is the covenant head of his people (Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:22). & we know from a text like Psalm 2 that there was a decree whereby the eternally begotten Son was given the nations as his heritage & the ends of the earth as his possession (v. 7; cf. Psalm 110). In other words, the Son was granted, by an eternal arrangement, a people to save & to redeem. This is why Zechariah 6:13 speaks of a covenant of peace between YHWH & the Branch, & why Jesus in Luke 22:29 speaks of the kingdom the Father has assigned to him. The covenant of grace in time is made possible by the covenant of redemption from all eternity.

b. Who accomplished redemption for God's people at the cross?: The Trinity!

1) God the Father: **Rom. 8:32:** He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all . . .

2) God the Son: **Matt. 27:46:** Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

3) God the Holy Spirit: **Heb. 9:14:** how much more will the **blood of Christ**, Who through **the eternal Spirit** offered Himself without blemish to **God**, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (You see all three Persons in this one verse!)

c. There is Trinitarian unity: The Father loves you so He sent the Son! The Father loves the Son, even while He was crushing & cursing Him on the cross! **Thomas Goodwin:** That he, that is God blessed forever, should be made a curse, this you have in Gal. 3:13. That he, that is, “the Holy One of Israel,” should be made sin, aye, and what is more, he that cannot endure sin, for nothing is more contrary to the holiness of God than sin, and yet “he that knew no sin was made sin,” this you have in 2 Cor. 5:21. That God should never be more angry with his Son than when he was most pleased with him, for so it was when Christ hung upon the cross, God did find a sweet-smelling savour of rest and satisfaction even when he cried out, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

6. The Cross Shows Us The Love Of God

- **John 3:16**

- **Rom. 5:8:** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Jn. 4:10: In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- God forsook Jesus because He loves you! God was angry with Jesus because He love you! God caused His Son to endure damnation because He loves you!

- Jesus endured being forsaken by God because He love you! Jesus endured the anger of God because He loves you! Jesus endured the damnation of God because He loves you!

Application: May God use us to tell the world about this love of God! **Col. 1:24:** Now I rejoice in my sufferings

for your sake, & in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church

- **John Piper:** What's missing in Christ's afflictions is the presentation of those afflictions to the people for whom he died – the personal, touchable, visible, seeable presentation of his afflictions to those for whom he died.

7. The Cross Shows Us How To Live The Christian Life

a. We follow Christ in His sufferings: Matt. 10:37-39: Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, & whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. & whoever does not take his cross & follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, & whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

- **1 Pet. 2:20-25:** For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Story: I was a guest teacher for ten weeks at Columbia Bible College in South Carolina. My wife and I and our four kids were living in the men's dorm in two dorm rooms that they put together in a makeshift little apartment for us. We were living there for ten weeks while I taught several courses in the school. And one night at nine o'clock at night, word came through the men's dormitory that all the men were to leave their studies, and to go to the central lobby, because a woman missionary was passing through campus that evening, she couldn't stay for the next day, and so they wanted the men to hear her give a brief word of testimony about her missionary work in Africa. Well, to be real honest with you, none of the boys were very excited, you know. And, but the school said they had to do it, so we all went to the main lobby of the men's dorm, and when we got there, the guys were in there, they were draped over the couches, sitting on the floor, and kind of looking like they didn't want to be there. And, and then two of the school administrators walked in with Dr. Roseveare standing between the them, and when we saw her, everybody's worst fears were well-founded, because she looked like a missionary. Whatever that means.

Simple cotton dress. Gray hair pulled back in a bit of a bun. Very thick, coke-bottle glasses, because her eyesight was not good. & she was tired. So somebody grabbed a gray, folding, metal Samsonite chair & put it in the middle of the floor, & she sat on it, & they said, ah, "Gentlemen, this woman, Dr. Roseveare, has just come through our campus, we just want her to share a little bit of her experience with you tonight." And so she started to give her testimony. And being the astute woman that she is, about two minutes into her testimony, she knew that most of those guys were not interested at all, and so she stopped. And she said, "You know what, boys, I don't want to bore you with the details of my life. You've probably heard different stories and so forth. So, it's late, why don't we just take another five, ten minutes or so and, and I'll just answer questions. Maybe, you know, you have a question, I'd rather talk about the things you're interested." And this kid immediately stuck his hand up, I feel sorry for him to this day, he stuck his hand up, and he said, he said, "Yeah I've got a question," he said, "You know, we've got missionaries coming through here all the time, and, and they're always talking about, you know, paying the price and suffering for Jesus – what did you ever suffer for Jesus?" She sat there and looked at him and, without any bitterness or any anger, she said, "Well, during the Simba Uprising, I was raped twice." Everything got real quiet.

And then she told us about the rape. She told us how the government soliders came to her bungalow that night, came inside, ransacked it, grabbed her, beat her, threw her to the floor, kicked in all of her teeth. And then two army officers, one at a time, took her to her own bedroom and violated her body by raping her. And then, after the second incident, she was dragged from that bungalow out into a clearing and tied to a tree. And standing around the tree were all the laughing government soldiers. And then, while she was standing there, beaten and humiliated and violated and ridiculed, someone discovered in the bungalow the only existing hand-written manuscript of a book that she had been writing about the Lord's work in the Congo over an eleven year period. They brought it out,

put it on the ground in front of her, and burned it. And as she saw that book go up in smoke, through clenched teeth, she said to herself: "Is it worth it? Is it really worth it? Eleven years of my life poured out in selfless service for the African people and now this." And then she told those boys in that dormitory room that night as we all sat there spellbound, she said, "And boys, the minute I said that, God's Holy Spirit settled over that terrible scene, and He began to speak to me, and this is what He said. He said to me: 'Helen, my daughter Helen, you've been asking the wrong question all your life. Helen, the question is not, "Is it worth it?" The question is: "Am I worthy?" Am I, the Lord Jesus who gave His life for you, worthy for you to make this kind of sacrifice for me?" And by her own tearful testimony she told us how God broke her heart, she looked up into the face of Jesus and said, "Oh Lord Jesus, yes, it is worth it, for thou art worthy."

Rev. 5:1-10: Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, ⁴ and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. ⁵ And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." ⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

- **Jim Elliff:** One is taken aback by the emphasis upon the Cross in Revelation. Heaven does not "get over" the cross, as if there are better things to think about, heaven is not only Christ-centered, but cross-centered, and quite blaring about it.

- **Petrus Van Mastricht:** 1) Weakening, brought upon him externally by various distresses, being led from place to place, the imposition of the cross, and other things

2) That among the disciples, he was betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter, deserted by all

3) He was declared by every kind of person, and especially by the leaders, to be a madman, demoniac, Samaritan, reveler, profane man, impostor, blasphemer, seducer, magician, rebel, and invader from another kingdom; he was rejected by the people, valued less than the worst sort of murderer, and crucified in the middle of two thieves

4) He was stripped of his clothing

5) Furthermore, when he was arrested, he was shamefully dragged from court to court, as if he were a thief

6) He suffered the most unjust judgments, as much ecclesiastical, under the priests Ananias and Caiaphas, as political, under Pilate and Herod the Tetrarch

7) He was mocked, spat upon, beaten, mangled with a thorny crown, first before Caiaphas, then before Herod, and finally before Pilate and his officials and soldiers

8) Furthermore, like a villain, with his body stripped naked, in a place of infamy between two thieves, he endured a savage, shameful, and cursed kind of punishment, preceded also by a thousand insults, by a drink steeped with gall and myrrh, and by a sarcastic inscription on the placard

9) Finally, he suffered in all the parts and members of his body: his ears were filled with mockeries, his head battered with a reed, and lacerated with thorns, his body scourged, his mouth given vinegar and gall to drink, his face disgraced with spit, his shoulders burdened with the wood of the cross, his side pierced, his arms extended over the cross, his hands and feet affixed to the cross with nails, his blood from all his veins poured out, his heart melted with anguish, and so forth

Jesus endured all of this AND the forsakenness of God, AND the anger of God, AND the damnation of God because of His great love with which He loved sinners so that we might NEVER be forsaken by God, AND NEVER bear God's anger, AND NEVER endure God's damnation, but enjoy God's smile and love for all eternity

where there is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore! Hallelujah! What a Savior!

b. We delight in God & His work & this is our strength: The cross is our joy! “The greatest thing in the world is to be saved!” Saved from hell! Saved to heaven! **1 Pet. 3:18:** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God; **Neh. 8:10:** the joy of the LORD is your strength.

8. The Cross Is The Power Of God To Live The Christian Life

- **1 Cor. 1:18:** For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- **Gal. 2:20:** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- **Phil. 3:7-11:** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things & count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ & be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith – that I may know him & the power of his resurrection, & may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

a. Because of the cross: we’ve been saved: Justified: Forgiven all our sins! Counted righteous! One time act! Not a process! Forever!

- **Rom. 4:5:** to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness

b. We’re being saved: Sanctified: We’re united to Christ! Law written on hearts! Have His Spirit! Christ-likeness

- **Rom. 6:1-4:** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

c. We will be saved: Glorified: Fully transformed into the image of Christ! New, glorified bodies! No more sin!

- **Rom. 8:30:** those whom he called he also justified, & those whom he justified he also glorified.

d. God transforms us: 1) The Apostles; The Apostle Paul: A blasphemer & persecutor of Christians!

2) The Corinthian Christians: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11: Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

3) Rosaria Butterfield; Christopher Yuan; Ken Parker (Grand Wizard in the KKK) got saved! You & me!

Christ Jesus’ Cross On Full Display
Shows God’s Righteous, Holy Way
And Sin’s Great Evil, Death, Decay
But God Is Sovereign, Holds All Sway
And Gave An Actual Atonement Day
God Crushed His Son, His Loved One Slay
The Triune God Would Win And Say
“I Love Lost Sinners Gone Astray!”

Christ Died And Rose For All He’d Pay
His Death Takes All Our Sins Away
And Shows Us How To Live Today
We Die And Sacrifice His Way
The Power Of The Cross Survey
Will Strengthen Us To Love Display
We Serve And Sacrifice And Pray
For Christ Is All Our Hope And Stay!