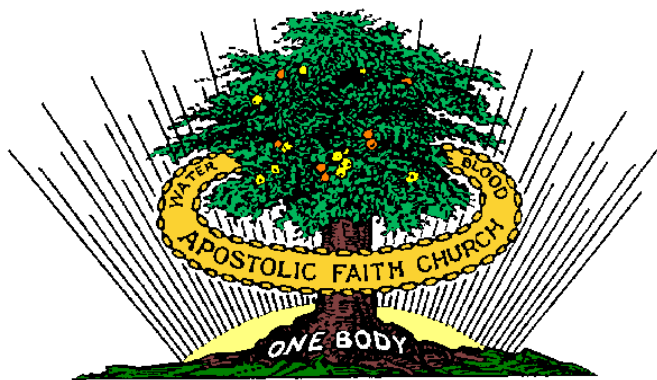


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Showers of Blessing

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The Cross of Calvary

The Cross of Calvary stands as the most powerful representation of Salvation in all of human history. It is a place where love, sacrifice, justice, and mercy converged. It was on that rugged hill just outside Jerusalem that Jesus Christ gave His life, altering the course of humanity forever. Through the Cross of Calvary, we find redemption, reconciliation, and restoration.

A Sacrifice of Love

The Cross was not an accident of history, but the fulfillment of the divine purpose of God. Long before Jesus walked the dusty roads of Judea, the prophets spoke of a suffering Savior who would bear the sins of many. Isaiah declared, "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:5). At Calvary, this prophecy found its ultimate expression. Jesus willingly laid down His life, not out of obligation, but out of unmeasurable love. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Hymn No. 77 in the AFC Hymnal carries these profound words:

"They crucified Him, my soul to redeem,
Upon the accursed tree;
A crown of thorns, His brow adorns,
All this He bore for me.

Forsaken was He, sin's offering to be,
Upon the accursed tree;
God's hand was laid, sin's debt was paid,
All this He bore for me.

The Cross was endured, Salvation was secured,
Upon the accursed tree;
My soul to bless, my heart to possess,
All this He bore for me."

The death of Jesus Christ is significant because although Jesus was sinless, His death was because of sin, the sin of others. He died to satisfy God's wrath against human sin. Because of His love for humanity, God substituted our death by giving His Son Jesus to die in our place. The Apostle Paul emphasizes the significance of Christ's death in Romans 5:8: "But God proves His love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." This act of divine love and grace is foundational to the Christian faith and our salvation, and reconciled us to God the Father.

The Price of Redemption

Through the Cross, sin met its defeat and destruction. Humanity, broken by sin and separated from God, could not save itself. But the Lord Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God, bore the

full weight of that burden. His death was the ransom paid to set us free. It is through His Blood that we receive forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7) and through His resurrection that we receive new life. He paid the full price. It was done.

Calvary was not just a place of death; it was a place of victory. The Lord Jesus cried out loud, "It is finished!" signaling the completion of a plan set in motion before the foundations of the world. The veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom, symbolizing that the way to God was now open to all through Christ's sacrifice once and for all. No more separation. No more annual animal sacrifices. His shed Blood was sufficient. Through the Cross, we are invited into the presence of the living God.

A Message of Reconciliation

The Cross does more than cleanse our past; it reconciles us to God and to each other. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:19, "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them." The Cross removes hostility and replaces it with peace. It invites the outcast, the broken, and the lost to come home to God.

In a world still torn by division and pain, the message of Calvary remains our greatest power of the Gospel. It reminds us that love is stronger than hate, that grace is more powerful than guilt, and that life can emerge from even the darkest death and situation, through Christ.

Living Through the Cross

To live "through the Cross" is to reflect His life in us and carry the message of the Cross to every corner of the world, winning souls to Christ, sharing the love of God and the forgiveness of sins which are washed away by the Blood of the Lamb. It means embracing humility, walking in forgiveness, and extending grace to others as Christ did to us. It means dying to self so that His life can be made known in us.

The Cross is not just a past event; it is a present power. For every believer, it is the source of identity, strength, and purpose. As Paul wrote, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). When we live through the Cross, we live with a new perspective shaped by sacrifice, soaked in grace, and driven by love.

Through the Cross of Calvary, the door to eternal life was opened, the chains of sin were broken, and the love of God was revealed in its fullest measure. It is the Foundation and Cornerstone of our faith and the heartbeat of the Gospel. May we never lose sight of the Cross and what the finished work of Christ what accomplished thereupon, and may we live each day in the shadow of grace of the God and covered under the Blood of the Lamb.

May the Lord Bless all the Apostolic faithful as we gather all around the world during this Passover Conference. Glory be to God.

Deputy ICO, Rev, Jeremiah Sande

