

THE CROSS – THE POWER OF GOD

“No Cross – No Empty Tomb; No Empty Tomb – No Hope!” (I Cor 15:17-23)

I Cor 1:18 “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the *power of God*”

Gal 6:14 Paul: “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ ...”

Partial Descriptions of Jesus Death: Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19

Question: Why did Jesus suffer and die on the cross?

Three classic passages:

Romans 5:6-11

2 Cor 5:17-21

I Thes 5:9-11

- 1) To achieve His own resurrection from the dead (I Cor 15:17).
- 2) So God could show His own love for us (John 3:16, 15:13; Rom 5:8; Eph 5:25; Mat 20:28; I John 4:10); to give us the greatest gift (Rom 8:32; John 3:16).
- 3) In order to fulfill the legal demands of the law against us; to pay the penalty of our sins; to impute God’s righteous on us (Col 2:13-15; Rom 5:9; 2 Cor 5:19-21; Gal 3:13; Eph 2:5; I Jn 4:10).
- 4) To reconcile us to God; to provide salvation (Rom 5:10-11; 2 Cor 5:18-19; I Thes 5:9).
- 5) To provide the basis for our righteousness and to provide the basis for our justification (Rom 4:5, 5:9; Phil 3:9; I Thes 5:9; II Cor 5:21).

- 6) To provide purpose and direction in living our lives (2 Cor 5:15; Rom 14:8-9; 2 Cor 5:9).
- 7) To give us eternal life in Heaven with Him (John 3:36; Mat 25:46; I Cor 2:9).

HOLY WEEK READING PLAN

Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11
Monday	Isaiah 53
Tuesday	Romans 5-6; Gal 2:19-21; Colossians 2:13-15
Wednesday	Romans 8; Ephesians 1:15-23, 3:14-21; Philippians 3:7-11
Thursday	John 17
Friday	Psalm 22
Saturday	Hebrews 9:11-11:14; Colossians 3:1-17
Sunday	I Corinthians 15

[Partially based on John Piper's "The Passion of Jesus Christ"]