

WHEN I SEE THE CROSS

When you are driving down the highway and you see a hearse, you think of death. When you see an ambulance, you think of an accident. When you pass by a hospital you think of sick people. When you pass by a bank, you think of money. When you pass by a school building, you think of education. But what do you think when you see a cross? The next few minutes I want to talk to you about some of the things I think about when I see a cross.

I. When I see a cross. . . I think of sin.

A. If it had not been for sin, there would have never been a cross.

1. Sin is worse thing known to man (Rom. 3:10, 23).
2. Any person who does not believe that sin carries with it individual and national calamities, is as foolish as the person who thinks a spider's web could keep a huge boulder from rolling down a mountain side.
3. Sin is the most deceptive thing known to man.
 - a. Promises happiness and gives sorrow.
 - b. Promises hope and gives despair
 - c. Promises sleep and gives nightmares.
4. Sin is the worse thing known to man.
 - a. Sin is deceitful as the left handed Ehud (shake hands with one hand and stab you with other
 - b. Sin is as treacherous as Absalom
 - c. Sin is as hypocritical as Judas
 - d. Sin is a vulture, dressed in the feather of a peacock.
 - e. Sin is a wolf in lamb's clothing.
5. If it had not been for sin, there would be no sickness, no sorrow, no heartache, etc...

B. When I see a cross, I realize what a horrible thing sin is!

II. When I see a cross, I think of the love of God.

A. What tremendous love the Father had for us to send his Son to die for us.

1. John 3:16
2. Have you ever thought about the little word "so."
 - a. God "so" loved the world.
 - b. When you try to measure it, to picture the word "so" it can't be done.
 - c. God so loved.
3. Gal. 6:14

B. I Cor. 1:18-21—power of God

1. Love of God that motivated the apostle Paul to make these statements.
2. Perhaps you have read many love stories in your life.
3. You have never read anything comparable to the love that God had for sinful man.
4. You can think of situations that have occurred which show great love for someone else.
 - a. Risk their life to save someone.
 - b. You can understand that kind of love.
 - c. Love you have for your mate or children.
5. The love that God had for sinful man is beyond my comprehension.

C. When I see a cross, I think of that tremendous love that God had for man.

III. When I see the cross, I think of the world crucifying the only innocent person that ever graced this earth.

A. The only one that ever lived above sin. . . Yet they crucified him.

B. During his life, he fought against sin and with eloquence he called upon man to repent.

1. While upon this earth, he endorsed everything that was good, and right and holy

2. While upon this earth, he condemned everything that was wrong and sinful and ugly.
- C. He was the greatest person the world has ever known.
1. He was so great and is so great that even time changed (in the year of our Lord)
 2. He was so great and is so great that he revolutionized the whole world in three short years by giving it a new date, anew law and a new religion.
 3. He proved to man in his death, that there was life beyond the grave.
- D. Greatest man the world has ever know and they crucified him.
1. The only one who ever lived who could say to man on any occasion, which one of you convinces me of sin (John 8:46).
 2. Resisted Satan for forty days.
 3. Preached and taught in the temple and in the synagogue.
 4. He ministered to the poor. . . healed the sick. . . cast out evil spirits. . . waled on the water. . . raised the dead.
 5. He was a man w/o an equal and the world crucified him.
- E. He was so great, everything he did, every place he went, became a sacred spot. Holy Land!
- IV. When I see a cross, I think of the sufferings of Jesus Christ.
- A. Isa. 53:3
1. When he set forth the Lord's Supper , that upper room, when he washed the disciples feet, when he predicted the betrayal of one of his disciples, in the garden of Gethsemane.
 2. When he said "my soul is exceeding sorrowful." Why?
 - a. The sins of the whole world were about to be on him.
 - b. He suffered so that justice could be satisfied.
 3. "If it be possible, let this cup pass."
 - a. He knew what a horrible, painful death the cross was.
 - b. Not my will, but thine be done!
 4. They arrested him as if he is some criminal.
 5. Took him from one mock trial to another.
 6. From Annas to Caiphas, to Pilate, to Herod, back to Pilate, then to the Judgment Hall.
 7. In all this, he never retaliated.
 - a. They beat him, spit on him, placed a crown of thorns on his head, etc...
 - b. He could have called 10,000 angels... but then you and I would have been lost!
 8. One of the most terrible nights the world has ever known.
 - a. Many things took place that night. All of them unlawful.
 - b. The responsibility to make a decision fell on Pilate.
 - c. His wife sent a not, "have nothing to do with this just man..."
 - d. Pilate wanted to release him. [no fault. . . no evil]
 9. Such had no bearing on the mob. . they marched him to Golgotha
 - a. There they crucified him.
 - b. Scene was so terrible that at high noon, God sent a blanket of darkness over it for 3 hours.
 - c. "It is finished"
 10. All of that so that I might have my sins remitted.
- B. When I see a cross, I think about the suffering of Christ.
- V. When I see a cross, I think of the resurrection.
- A. If Christ had not come forth from that grave, you and I would have been lost forever.
1. I Cor. 15:19—if in this life only...
 2. I Cor. 15:42-44...so is the resurrection of the dead.
 3. Every step we take, death is constantly at our heels.

- B. If Jesus had not risen, that grave would contain your body and my body forever and ever.
 - 1. No anticipation of tomorrow. No hope.
 - 2. There will be a resurrection of the body from the grave.
- C. On that resurrection day, no matter where, or in what you are buried, you will come forth.
- D. Are you ready for that resurrection day?
- E. YOU WILL BE THERE!!!

Con: Plan of salvation. What do you think about when you see the cross? Sin. . . Love of God. . . Sinless son of God. . . Suffering of Jesus. . . the Resurrection. I Cor. 15:55-57. Are you ready?

[Main thoughts of sermon came from lesson presented by V.P. Black]