

## What The Cross of Christ Shows

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by Bill Crews

By the cross of Christ I mean the death of Christ on a cross, the crucifixion of Christ, the sacrifice of Christ for our sins. It is the central fact of the Bible, the result of God's eternal purpose, the fulfillment of prophecy, the greatest event in human history, the only hope of a world lost in sin. Deity became flesh and, as a man, lived a sinless life and then died as a perfect sacrifice for all of the sins of all mankind.

### What Does The Cross Of Christ Show?

1. **It shows how bad sin is.** Sin is transgression of divine law (1 John 3:4), and only God knows how bad it is; only God can see it for what it is and for what it does. It is so vile that only the cross of Christ could nullify its effects, could remove its guilt. According to Romans 3:25-26 it was the only way that God could remain just while justifying sinners. And as Hebrews 9:22 says, *"And apart from shedding of blood there is no remission."*
2. **It shows how much God hates sin.** Certainly God hates sin. He knows what it is and what it has done and will do to the human race. *"Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity"* (Psalms 45:7; Hebrews 1:9). Seven sins are introduced in Proverbs 6:17-19 with these words: *"There are six things which Jehovah hateth; Yea, seven which are an abomination unto him"* (Proverbs 6:16). God through Amos informed the people of Israel that He hated and despised their feasts and took no delight in their solemn assemblies because justice and righteousness were lacking in their lives (Amos 5:21-24). Devising evil in the heart against others and loving false oaths God also hates (Zechariah 8:17). And putting away of a mate (Malachi 2:16). And the works of the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:6). God hates all sin, and so much so that He was willing to give up His Son to save men whom He loves from their sins which He hates.
3. **It shows how lost the world was.** *"For the Son of man came to seek and save that which was lost"* (Luke 19:10 — this includes the cross). His death for all shows that all were dead in sin (2 Corinthians 5:14 — *"one died for all, therefore all died"*). *"For there is no man that sinneth not"* (1 Kings 8:46). *"Surely there is not a righteous man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not"* (Ecclesiastes 7:20). Paul's conclusion to his arguments in Romans 1:18 — 3:22: *"For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). The inclination and desire of individuals and nations is usually to go deeper into sin (*"shall wax worse and worse,"* to use the language of 2 Timothy 3:13).
4. **It shows how wicked man can be.** From that standpoint the cross was the darkest day in human history. On the day of Pentecost following the cross, Peter charged his audience with the deed, *"Ye by the hand of lawless men (the Romans, BC) did crucify and slay"* (Acts 2:23). And later: *"And now, brethren, I know that in ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers"* (Acts 3:17). Paul wrote: *"Which none of the rulers of this world hath known: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory"* (1 Corinthians 2:8). Who did it? Many of the Jews who were present in Jerusalem at the time, instigated by their rulers and leaders. By some, during His ministry Jesus was called, *"a gluttonous man and a wine bibber," "a breaker of the sabbath," "a Samaritan," "mad," "a blasphemer," "Beelzebub,"* and *"a deceiver."* Often, during His ministry, His enemies among the Jews tried to seize Him or to kill Him. He was arrested and bound like a

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