

Sermon Discussion Questions

“THE CROSS AND THE CONFESSION”

Discuss

“And so he was raised on a cross, and a title was fixed, indicating who it was who was being executed. Painful it is to say, but more terrible not to say. . . .He who suspended the earth is suspended, he who fixed the heavens is fixed, he who fastened all things is fastened to the wood; the Master is outraged; God is murdered.”

Melito of Sardis, A.D. 180¹

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul reminded his readers that he did not come to them “with eloquence or superior wisdom.” Instead, he “resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.” (1 Cor. 2:1-2) Over and over again, Paul preached about the crucified Jesus because while “the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,” to those of us “who are being saved, it is the power of God.” (1 Cor. 1:18)

- 1) In 2013, a committee putting together a new hymnbook for the Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.) asked Keith Getty and Stuart Townend if they could alter one line in their hymn, “In Christ Alone.” They wanted to change “on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied” to “the love of God was magnified.” Getty and Townend said no because they believed the theology conveyed in that line of text was correct as originally written. The committee then decided to leave the song out of the hymnbook.
 - Why did God’s *wrath* need to be satisfied? As you answer this question, consider the power of sin and evil, the holiness and goodness of God, and if time, read Heb. 10:5-10.
 - Explain how you would answer the following question that many people have when they hear about Jesus’ substitution for us on the cross. Why couldn’t God just love everyone without Jesus dying?
 - What did Jesus mean when he cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” What does his being forsaken mean for us?
- 2) The writer of the book of Hebrews reminds us that we can “have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain. . . .” (Heb. 10:19-20)
 - What might we assume was the reaction of Jews to the temple curtain being torn in two? (Mark 15:38)
 - Does this event seem very remarkable to us? Should it?
- 3) What meaning or significance does Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection have in your everyday life?



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DATE: April 14, 2019

SPEAKER: Aaron/Chad

SERIES: The Gospel of Mark

PASSAGE: Mark 15:21-41

Pray

BLESSED LORD JESUS,

Before your cross I kneel and see my iniquity that caused you to be “made a curse.”

Your blood is the blood of incarnate God, its worth infinite, its value beyond all thought.

Infinite must be the sin and guilt that demands such a price.

Sin is my malady and my foe.

Yet your compassions yearn over me,

your heart hastens to my rescue,
your love endured my curse.

Let me walk humbly, tender of conscience, yet triumphing gloriously as an heir of salvation.

Amen.

– adapted from “The Precious Blood,” The Valley of Vision, p. 41

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

PCA Missions to North America

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Phil and Amina serving in a sensitive area

¹Quoted in Fleming Rutledge, *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ*, epigraph to book.