

The Meaning of the Cross

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I. Introduction.

- A. To Caesar the cross was a form of punishment.
- B. To the centurions the cross might have been the doorway to heaven.
- C. To the women and the disciples the cross was shattered expectations.
- D. To God the cross was the love of God for the dying world.
- E. To unbelievers the cross is foolishness. But for some it is a beacon. (1 Corinthians 1:18; Galatians 5:11; John 3:19-20; Galatians 6:12)

II. To believers the cross...

- A. Is the penalty of sin. (Colossians 2:14)
- B. Is sensitivity to sin. (Isaiah 53:4-6)
- C. Is redemption. (1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:9)
- D. Is reconciliation. (Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 1:20)
- E. Is sacrifice and death. The cross costs us our lives. (Luke 9:23-24; John 12:24; Hebrews 10:19-20; 1 John 3:1)
- F. Is hope.

Application questions:

1. What is the cross of Jesus to God?

2. How should a believer's life be different in light of what the cross has accomplished for him?

3. In what ways does the cross of Jesus bring us hope?
