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Faith Bible Church

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<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

The Cross of Christ

1. That the cross is crucial to Christianity has never been in doubt for serious students of the New Testament. The Gospels all lead up to it and find their climax there, Acts tells us how the first preachers proclaimed what God had done in the cross of Christ, while the Epistles bring out the meaning of this great act of atonement. Whenever we say “The crucial point is this—” or “The crux of the matter is that—”, we are saying in effect “Just as the cross is central to Christianity, so is this point central to my argument,” for the *crux* is the Latin word for “cross” and “crucial” is derived from it.
2. Communion has always been a service of proclaiming the Lord’s death till He comes, 1 Cor. 11:26.
3. The cross deals with the problem of sin. All sin separates man from God (Isa. 59:2). Sin also puts man under the wrath of God (Rom. 1:18). Judgment is both a present reality (John 3:19) and a future certainty (Rom. 2:12). Because of the cross, all of man’s sins have been judged finally and forever. The only unforgivable sin is rejection of the work of the cross.
4. The cross was the result of God the Father’s love for the human race, John 3:16.
5. Great picture words on the work of the cross:
 - a. Redemption. We no longer live in an era of slavery so it is hard for us to feel the impact of this word. Originally, redemption referred to the release of prisoners of war. A ransom price was paid and the prisoners were set free. It tells us that our salvation was at a cost and that now we are free, free from the slave market of sin.
 - b. Propitiation. This term means to turn away anger, usually by offering a gift. Christ’s death has turned away God’s wrath and freed us from a dreadful fate (Rom. 3:25).
 - c. Reconciliation was a word used in relation to quarrels and separation in families. The cross removed all problems between God and man so there can be *peace*, (Eph. 2:15).
 - d. Justification. This was a legal concept (cf. Deut. 25:1). Man stands condemned before the courtroom of God. In the work on the cross God took action in the person of His Son whereby all legal claims on sinners who are in Christ are fully met by His death.
 - e. Sacrifice. This term had a universal appeal in the first century in that sacrifice was the all-but-universal practice in all religious systems all over the world. In the OT sacrifices formed a vivid picture of what Jesus did when He offered Himself as a sacrifice (Eph. 5:2). Everything that the sacrifices pointed to but could not effect, that and more Christ did in His death.

Safe and Sound in Him,

Pastor Don