



**LESSON 6 – FOUNDATION STONES:  
PART ONE NOTES**

**WHY THE CROSS?**

**THE BENEFITS AND EFFECTS OF THE CROSS  
JUSTIFICATION, SANCTIFICATION, GLORIFICATION**

because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

**- Acts 17:31 -**

**CLASS SIX:  
WHY THE CROSS?  
THE BENEFITS AND EFFECTS OF THE CROSS  
JUSTIFICATION, SANCTIFICATION, GLORIFICATION**

**I. WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS CLASS**

- The central message of the Christian faith.
- What is the Gospel?
- Why did Jesus have to die for us?
- The many benefits and effects of the cross.
- Some basic background on justification, sanctification, and glorification.

**II. THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH**

The four “Gospels” (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) are actually four re-tellings of the ONE Gospel of Jesus Christ. Someone has said that the four Gospels are actually all *passion narratives with long introductions*. (Passion is referring to death, specifically the “passion” or “death” of Jesus – think of a “Passion Play” – meaning, traditionally, an Easter drama telling of the death of Christ and His burial and resurrection.)

The reason the Gospels are characterized in this fashion is due to the “rush” of the narratives to the climax of the story – namely the suffering of Christ on the cross; His death, burial, and resurrection; and the centrality of the event.

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. Romans 1:16*

*For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:17, 18*

*May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6:14*

*For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 1 Corinthians 2:2*

*but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. 1 Corinthians 1:23*

*Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold*

on him. Acts 2:22-24

### III. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

*Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*  
1 Corinthians 15:1-4

The Gospel message, the preaching of the cross of Christ – His death for our sins, burial, and resurrection should not be confused with the various biblically oriented or back grounded ways that we call people to respond to the Gospel. For example, we may tell or invite someone to “believe in Jesus,” or “repent and believe,” or “ask Jesus into their heart,” or “trust Jesus as their Lord and Saviour,” or to be “born again” – but these statements alone are NOT the essence of the Gospel message, according to the Bible, these are RESPONSES to the Gospel message.

Given that our culture is growing less and less knowledgeable about Christian “givens,” such as belief in God, the work of Jesus Christ, the lost estate of sinful man, and his need of relationship with God through faith in Christ, it is becoming more and more important that we lay out the basic facts and information necessary to convey the essence of the Gospel message.

### IV. WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE FOR US?

The Scriptures reveal the many things Jesus accomplished in His death on the cross, thus revealing the purposes for His suffering and death, burial, and resurrection.

#### A. Man’s nature is sinful, due to the fall of Adam as a result of his sin in the garden. Adam’s sinful nature is passed on to all mankind.

*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned... Romans 5:12*

#### B. God’s nature is both \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_.

*But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:15, 16*

##### 1. Because God is HOLY, He cannot abide sin. He abhors sin.

*Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Habakkuk 1:13a*

*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. Romans 1:18*

*But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God “will give to each person according to what he has done.” Romans 2:5-6*

##### a. God’s \_\_\_\_\_ abides on all who do not believe in or receive Jesus.

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will*

*not see life, for God's wrath remains on him. John 3:36*

*All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. Ephesians 2:3*

- b. God's will is that all men be saved, yet, while Jesus is the Saviour of all men, all who are saved must come to a knowledge of the truth, that is, they must respond to the Gospel. Forgiveness, eternal life, and the propitiation (satisfaction, making peace with) of the wrath of God through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and His shed blood is only applied to those who believe, trust in, and rely on Jesus.**

*who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. 1 Timothy 2:4-6*

*(and for this we labour and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, and especially of those who believe. 1 Timothy 4:10*

- 2. Because God is JUST, He cannot FREELY FORGIVE sin without the penalty for sin BEING PAID. God Himself declared that the penalty for sin was death – both physical and spiritual death in eternal separation from God.**

*The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him. Ezekiel 18:20*

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23*

- a. Scripture calls this death a result of a righteous decree that God made.**

*Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. Romans 1:32*

*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned Romans 5:12*

- b. God cannot violate His own \_\_\_\_\_ by merely foregoing the due and just penalty He set forth. His righteous judgment DEMANDS a verdict of "guilty" and DEMANDS a payment for that sin to be death.**

*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been*

*reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!* Romans 5:6-10

*He did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.* Romans 3:26

- c. **Man in his sinful state is \_\_\_\_\_ to effect his own sacrifice for his sin to pay the penalty of death decreed by God, therefore God Himself in Christ paid the penalty.**

*that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.* 2 Corinthians 5:19

As John Stott put it: "*According to the Christian revelation, God's own great love propitiated his own holy wrath through the gift of his own dear Son, who took our place, bore our sin, and died our death. **Thus God himself gave himself to save us from himself.***" *The Message of Romans: The Bible Speaks Today* (Leicester: InterVarsity, 1994), 114.

**Answers:**

Pg. 2 – HOLY, JUST, wrath

Pg. 3 – character

Pg. 4 – unable