

THE WONDROUS CROSS

Galatians 6:14

April 5, 2009 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION

A. Read text.

1. It was this verse that inspired Isaac Watts to write this hymn in 1707 titled, "When I survey the Wondrous Cross" (READ).
2. William Reynolds, wrote this about Watts and this song:
"The word 'survey' in the opening line implies more than mere looking. Watts suggests contemplation and awareness of the REAL: significance of The Cross. Rather than using an expected adjective such as cruel, tragic or rugged, Watts describes The Cross as "wondrous". Such graphic language reminds us that an instrument of cruel torture and death became God's wondrous instrument for our salvation."

- #### B. Like Isaac Watts, we must never lose sight of how terrible Christ's death was, but more than this, we must always remember how "wondrous" the cross was. Today lets focus on this wondrous cross together.

I. FIRST, LETS NOTICE THE REASON FOR THE CROSS.

- #### A. In Matthew 16:21 Jesus used the word "must" when referring to the cross.

Matthew 16:21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

- #### B. Why was the cross "a must"? Why was it necessary?

1. First, the cross was necessary because of our sin.
 - a. **Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**
 - b. Years ago the famous evangelist, Billy Sunday, wrote a letter to the mayor of a major city where he was to hold a crusade. The evangelist asked the mayor for the names of people who had spiritual problems so he could begin praying for them. The mayor sent him the city telephone directory. We are all sinners.
2. Second, the cross was necessary because of our separation from God.
Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.
3. Third, the cross was necessary because of our salvation.
Romans 5:9 (MSG) Now that we are set right with God by means of this sacrificial death, the consummate blood sacrifice, there is no longer a question of being at odds with God in any way.

II. SECOND, LETS NOTICE THE REALITY OF THE CROSS.

- #### A. First, the suffering of the cross was real. Movies like Mel Gibson's "The Passion" graphically illustrate the reality of Jesus' suffering.

- #### B. Second, the shame of the cross was real.

Matthew 27:35 When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

- #### C. Third, the separation of the cross was real.

Matthew 27:46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

1. Jesus was forsaken by the religious leaders, his family, his disciples, his friends, and now by his Father!
2. His Father didn't forsake him because of his own sin, but because he paid for ours.

III. THIRD, LETS NOTICE THE RESULTS OF THE CROSS.

A. First, the cross resulted in our pardon.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

B. Second, the cross resulted in our peace.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

CONCLUSION

A. Isaac Watts is right. It is a "wondrous" cross.

B. It is wondrous because of what Jesus did for us there.