

# **THE CROSS**

## **Compilation of Verses**

### **I. INTRODUCTION-**

- a. Today we look at the death of Jesus Christ... on the cross.
- b. Death by crucifixion... was a horrible, humiliating and torturous way to die.
- c. Whatever depictions you have seen of the crucifixion of Jesus... do not give justice to what it was like to die on a cross.
- d. Today in American churches... and Christian circles...you really don't hear much about the cross of Jesus.
- e. The focus of American Christianity today... is more on us and how wonderful we are and how lucky God is to have us...rather than on our sin...which made the death of Jesus on the cross necessary for our salvation.
- f. It is important that we never lose sight of the centrality... and importance of the cross.
- g. All of our thankfulness and gratefulness to God... should be attached to the cross of Jesus Christ...and what His death means to you and me.
- h. Today I want us to look at... The Reality of the Cross... The Reason for the Cross... The Reaction to the Cross... The Result of the Cross ... and finally... The Revelation of the Cross.

### **II. THE REALITY OF THE CROSS-**

- a. #1, There is much Scriptural Evidence for the Cross... The four gospels of the New Testament... record in detail... the actual historical event of Jesus' death on the cross.
- b. The letters of the New Testament... confirm the reality of the death of Jesus on the cross...and describe its meaning all people.

- c. From the New Testament...we know that Jesus was crucified on a Friday.
- d. We know that before He was crucified... Jesus was unmercifully whipped and scourged by Roman soldiers.
- e. We know that Jesus was forced to carry His cross outside the walls of Jerusalem...to a place called Golgotha hill or Calvary.
- f. We know that Jesus was put on the cross at 9:00 in the morning ... and He stayed on the cross until 3:00 in the afternoon...when He died.
- g. We know that as He hung on the cross...Jesus spoke 7 times... and that two other men were crucified alongside Him.
- h. We know that the execution of Jesus was carried out by a detachment of Roman soldiers... we know that it was witnessed by a crowd ... which included friends, followers, foes, family...and others.
- i. We know that to confirm His death... a Roman soldier took a spear and thrust it into the side of Jesus' body... and into His heart.
- j. We know that after Jesus died... His body was taken off the cross ... it was washed and wrapped in spices and linen... and then His body was laid in a tomb in garden not far from where He was executed... and the opening of the tomb was secured by a giant stone.
- k. The truth is... we know more about the death of Jesus than we do about the death of any other person in ancient history.
- l. #2, The Historical Evidence for Jesus Death on the Cross... many ancient historical writers... including many non-Christians... confirm the historicity of Jesus...and record the fact that He died by crucifixion.

Reality

### **III. THE REASON FOR THE CROSS-**

- a. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus did not die on the cross... because He was guilty of any crime or wrongdoing... that was deserving of such a punishment.
- b. In fact... the Bible makes it clear... that Jesus was innocent of any crime or wrongdoing at all.
- c. The ruling judge in the trial of Jesus was a man by the name of Pontius Pilate... the Roman governor of Palestine.
- d. After hearing the evidence and the case against Jesus...on three separate occasions in the proceedings...Pilate declared Jesus to be “not guilty” of any wrongdoing.
- e. Pilate also sent Jesus to be examined by Herod Antipas ...who ruled over the province of Galilee... after examining Jesus... Herod also found no fault in Jesus deserving of the cross.
- f. Both Pilate and Herod came to the same conclusion... the only reason that Jesus had been arrested... was because those who were a part of the Jewish religious establishment and power structure hated Jesus... and those Jewish leaders were determined to get rid of Him.
- g. If both Pilate and Herod... the judges in His case... ruled that Jesus was innocent of any wrongdoing...then why was He crucified?
- h. From the human perspective... the political reason Jesus was crucified... was because He was a problem that Pilate... the Roman governor wanted to be free of.
- i. The religious reason Jesus was crucified... was because the Jewish authorities hated Him... they saw Jesus as a threat to their power, place and position...they saw Him as a threat to the tenuous peace the nation of Israel had with Rome...and they saw Him as a threat to their religious traditions and their understanding of the Jewish law and faith.

- j. But the real reason Jesus was crucified... in spite of the fact that He was innocent of any crime, wrongdoing and any sin.
- k. Was because the reason Jesus Christ... the Son of God... came into the world... was to die a sacrificial death on the cross for the sins of all mankind.
- l. *Matthew 20:28 (NKJV) "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*
- m. *1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NKJV) "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all."*
- n. *1 Corinthians 15:3 (NKJV) "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures."*
- o. *2 Corinthians 5:14 (NLT) "Christ died for all." ... 1 Thessalonians 5:10 (NLT) "Christ died for us."*

Reality...Reason

#### **IV. THE REACTION TO THE CROSS-**

- a. There were different reactions to the cross of Jesus... in the crowd... some gloated at what they thought was a victory over Jesus.
- b. They taunted Jesus... they dared Him to come off the cross if He was able ... they were glad to see Jesus go... they thought Jesus was getting what He deserved.
- c. Some gambled... as Jesus was dying... with heartless callousness the Roman soldiers divided and gambled for His possessions.
- d. Some only glanced at Jesus as they traveled the road to and from Jerusalem ... to them He was just another poor soul being put to death by the Romans... and they were glad it was not them.

- e. Some in the crowd grieved as Jesus was dying on the cross... they had followed Jesus... they had heard His words... they had witnessed His miracles... they had believed that He was the Promised One of God ... and now they stood in shock and confusion as Jesus was dying on the cross... apparently helpless and defeated.
- f. Some in the crowd... were groping for what all this meant.
- g. How did Satan react to the cross?... Satan had tried to kill Jesus before ...when Jesus was a child...and on other occasions during His ministry.
- h. Satan is not the equal opposite of God... Satan is a created being with limited knowledge... I don't think Satan fully understood what was going on at the cross ... but he would soon find out.
- i. What was God the Father's reaction to the cross?... #1, Darkness ... the Bible says that halfway through Jesus' six hours on the cross... clouds hid the sun and the sky turned as black as midnight.
- j. *Luke 23:44-45 "By this time it was noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. The light from the sun was gone."*
- k. The darkness that day was not caused by the absence of God... but rather by His awesome and frightful arrival on the scene.
- l. Darkness fell on that day as God the Father came to unleash... the full measure of His judgment, vengeance, fury and wrath that our sins deserve... on His beloved Son.
- m. In the darkness... infinite wrath... moved by infinite righteousness... released infinite punishment on Jesus.
- n. In just three hours... Jesus absorbed all the punishment of eternal hell ... for all mankind.
- o. In the darkness... Jesus bore our sins in His own body... though He knew no sin... He was made sin for us.

- p. Jesus did not die on the cross for His guilt... He died for ours.
- q. In the darkness... Jesus was wounded for our transgressions... He was crushed for our iniquities... He was made a curse for us.
- r. #2, Desertion... not only did God the Father react with darkness at the cross... He reacted with desertion.
- s. *Matthew 27:46 (NKJV) "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*
- t. As God's wrath for the sin of mankind... was poured out on Jesus... for the first time ever... Jesus experienced separation from the Father ... the separation caused by our sin.
- u. #3, Death... the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins was not complete... until He bowed His sacred head in death.
- v. *John 19:28-30 (NKJV) "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."*

Reality... Reason... Reaction

## V. **THE RESULT OF THE CROSS-**

- a. Because of what Jesus did at the cross...for those who believe in Him and receive Him as their Lord and Savior...#1, Sin's debt has been paid.
- b. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death... at the cross... Jesus died for us... and when we believe in Him... what Jesus did at the cross is applied to us... and our sin debt is forever, fully, and finally paid... we are forgiven ... and we are given eternal life.

- c. #2, Sin's barrier has been removed... the Bible says that when Jesus died...a curtain in the Temple that represented the separation between God and man caused by our sin... was torn into by God.
- d. Because of what Jesus did at the cross... the barrier of sin that had separated us from God... has been forever removed.
- e. #3, Sin's power over our life has been broken...when a person believes in Jesus... He immediately sets them free from the penalty and the bondage of sin ... and one day when we go to Heaven... He will forever set us free from the presence.
- f. #4, Satan's defeat in our life is certain... Satan may win some battles in the life of the believer... but he is not going to win the war.
- g. There is victory in Jesus... and because of what Jesus did on the cross for us... when we believe in Him... Jesus shares that victory with us ...and one day we will be forever free from sin and the evil one.

Reality... Reason... Reaction... Result

## **VI. THE REVELATION OF THE CROSS-**

- a. The full meaning of the cross of Jesus was not revealed and confirmed ... until three days later... when Jesus Christ arose from the dead.
- b. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... was God's affirmation and confirmation that His death on the cross... had been accepted and approved as a sacrifice for our sins.
- c. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead... revealed the victory over Satan, sin and death that Jesus accomplished at the cross.
- d. *Romans 4:25 (NKJV) "Jesus was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification."*

## **VII. CONCLUSION-**

- a. The death of Jesus on the cross... which happened 2,000 years ago ... does have an effect on your life today... it means everything to you.

- b. What you do with Jesus... and His death and resurrection... determines the course of your life in this world and your eternal destiny.
- c. What is your reaction to the cross?... ignore?...dismiss?... reject? ... or accept?
- d. Will you believe... and give your life to Christ today?