

The Work of Christ on the Cross

Adapted and condensed from a Mark Driscoll lecture in the UK

www.CoinsFTJ.com :: Keet@JKeetLewis.com

10 ASPECTS OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST*: *The work of Christ on the Cross. Pray through these aspects.*

1. **Substitutionary Atonement** — *On this all the other aspects rest: He was wounded for our transgressions. Is 53:5; Rom 4:25; 5:8; 1 Cor 15:3; 2 Peter 3:18*
2. **Victor** — *Christos Victor: Jesus Christ conquered Satan, Demons and cancelled our debt, hid our sin. Col 2:13-15; 1 Cor 15:57; Rom 8:37*
3. **Redemption** — *Christ gave himself to be our redeemer. Titus 2:13- 14*
4. **New Covenant Sacrifice** — *We were not redeemed by silver/gold but by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. 1 Pet 1:17-19*
5. **Justification** — *By faith in Christ we are justified before God. Gal 2:16 2 Cor 5:21 Martin Luther: The Great Exchange: Our Sin for His Righteousness.*
6. **Propitiation** — *We deserve wrath: But God in His love sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor 5:7*
7. **Expiation** — *In propitiation God diverted His wrath from us, in expiation we are cleansed from the stain of sin. 1 Jn 1:7-9*
8. **Ransom** — *Jesus Christ is the one God, one Mediator between God and men, who gave himself a ransom for all. 1Tim 2:5-6*
9. **Example** — *Christ was fully God and fully Man and suffered hardship/ pain and death as an example for us. 1 Pet 2:21; Heb 4:15; 5:8*
10. **Reconciliation** — *Sin destroys relationships and separates people, Let us all forgive others as Christ forgave you. Eph 4:30-35 f 5:2*

**Systematic Theology works from: Thiessen, Chafer, Ryrie, Lindsey and Driscoll*

Therefore, we see the Perfect Revelation of God when we look at the cross. It is all about the cross and the crucified life of the believer, the follower of Christ....He is our example...Praise His Holy Name!!

10 ASPECTS OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST: *The following was adapted and condensed from a Mark Driscoll lecture in the UK on this topic.*

The centrality of the Gospel: *1 Cor 2:1-5* And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. *2* For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. *3* And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, *4* and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, *5* so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. NOTE: The rest of the chapter to v16 ...Has the same theme. "Christ Crucified"

A culture can lose the Gospel in 3 Generations: Believe => Assume => Forget/Deny

It happened after the Protestant Reformation 1517. Luther said of Gal 2:20 "*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*"

Luther: Teach this and beat it into their heads, "Jesus Christ and Him Crucified"

When we consider the crucifixion of Jesus Christ we are also including his incarnation, God became a man, his sinless life, his substitutionary death, his bodily burial, and his resurrection, as well as his ascension back into heaven where Jesus is seated on the throne ruling over all tribes, languages, nations, peoples, colors, races, sexual orientations, over all times, places and circumstances as King of Kings, Lord of Lords and El Shaddai, God Almighty.

We must not assume all believers know this truth... teach this to each generation.

The Cross and Crucifixion:

Crucifixion was created about 500 BC by the Persians, and it continued until 300 AD when it was stopped by the Roman emperor Constantine. So, for about 800 years crucifixion was practiced and it was the most horrendous mode of death. A word was invented to articulate the pain experienced through crucifixion that being excruciating. That word literally means from the cross.

Deuteronomy 21:23 "*Cursed is every man who is hung on a tree.*". On the day that Spartacus fell in battle 71 BC, 6,000 of his soldiers were captured crucified in one day along the shoulder of the Appian Way (highway). This was done openly and publicly. People were crucified on roadways and the equivalent of parking lots or entrances to our shopping malls and grocery stores. Public humiliation was the end game.

Crucifixion though rarely practiced is occasionally practiced in the modern era. Adolph Hitler had Jews crucified in Dachau. It was Nazi soldiers who crucified allied soldiers. Today crucifixion is also practiced in Sudan, and it has been practiced by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. It is rare, but it still occurs and some Christians to this day are still crucified.

Interestingly, the cross became the most popular symbol in the history of the world identifying the heart of our Christian faith. It is told that the crucifixion was adopted as a symbol by Tertullian, one of the early church fathers, and there were early competing symbols to brand our faith. There was a fish and there was loaves and such things, a dove, and it was the cross that became the marker of the true Christian.

1. **Substitutionary Atonement** — *On this all the other aspects rest: He was wounded for our transgressions. Is 53:5; Rom 4:25; 5:8; 1 Cor 15:3; 2 Peter 3:18*

Jesus is our substitute. NT scholars J. I. Packer and others like D. A. Carlson "If words mean anything then, those who have denied the substitutionary atonement have essentially lost the Christian faith."

Today modern theologians have Feminist, Marxist and Environmental interpretations of the gospel. On this all the other aspects or facets of the cross rest:

- *Isaiah 53:5. "He was wounded for,"* that little word "for" is incredibly important. All scripture is God breathed and profitable. Even little words like "for" have big implications. *"He was wounded,"* for what? *"Our transgressions, our sins. He was crushed for our iniquities",* our sins. *"Upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace and with his stripes we are healed."*
- *Romans 4:25, "He was delivered up for our trespasses."*
- *Romans 5:8, "God shows his love for us in this while we were still sinners Christ died for us."*
- *1 Corinthians 15:3, the shortest summation of the Gospel in the New Testament "Christ died for our sins."*
- *1 Peter 3:18, "For Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous, for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God."*

God says in *Gen 2:15 "for the day you eat of it you shall surely die"* . (Dying you will die)
Paul says *Rom 6:23 "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is Christ Jesus our Lord"*

Substitution was exemplified on the Jewish Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, which was the great high holy day of the year and that that day was all about substitution. The Old Testament was in many ways simply foreshadowing, anticipating, leading up to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus.

On Yom Kippur the high priest would bring forth an animal that would act in a substitutionary way and the high priest would name the sins of the nation over that animal that was to be without blemish representing the future blamelessness and sinlessness of Jesus. The high priest would confess the sins of the people and then he would slit the throat of the animal and it would twitch and it would bleed, and it would die as a substitute.

In this substitution, sin was atoned for until the coming of the Messiah (Jesus) at which time what had been done in faith would ultimately be realized in the perfect substitute, Jesus Christ. God's people were waiting for their substitute and every year they sacrificed during Yom Kippur awaiting the coming of their messiah to die for their sins. But we know that God came on a mission to rescue us. He died for my sin and in so doing he paid my penalty of death and as my substitute he endured what I deserve to give me what I could not do for myself. If you lose substitution, you lose any real gratitude for Jesus.

2. **Victor** – *Christos Victor: Jesus Christ conquered Satan, Demons and cancelled our debt, hid our sin. Col 2:13-15; 1 Cor 15:57; Rom 8:37*

Jesus is our victor. *Colossians 2:13-15* *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*³

This was in fulfillment of *Genesis 3:15* the promised seed, Jesus Christ, would come and he would put a boot to the head of satan. It looked like Jesus was defeated and that satan had won. Look at *Isaiah 45:15* which says *"Surely, you are a God who hides."* **God hid victory in defeat because God is humble and because satan is proud he didn't see it.** *"But thanks be to God, who gives us the Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Cor 15:57*

Do not be embarrassed to tell people that there is a real satan and there are real demons and there is a real spiritual war. Satan loves to accuse the children of God *Revelation 12:10* says he

accuses them day or night. In 3rd person “You are ?” ?and in 1st person “I am??” negative self-talk.

When Jesus went to the cross, he paid the penalty for our sins and in so doing canceled any right that satan demons have toward the children of God which is wonderful so now Jesus victory is our victory and Jesus conquering of our enemy is the victory. *1 Cor 15:57*

The language here is taken from antiquity, when two kings would go to war and they would collide and when one king conquered the other, he would disarm the king and all of his soldiers, strip them naked, chain them together and then drag them back into his kingdom as in a parade.

In Colossians 2:15, we saw that satan has been defeated by Jesus, that satan and his demons (fallen angels) have been disarmed by Jesus. Through Jesus Christ there is victory over death, satan and demons, for the children of God. **AMEN, we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus.** *Rom 8:37..”we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

3. **Redemption** — *Christ gave himself to be our redeemer. Titus 2:13- 14*

Jesus is our redeemer. *Titus 2:13 and 14 ...”our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who were zealous for good works.”* This comes from the Exodus where God's people are in slavery. They have been for more than 400 years. They're ruled over by a cruel taskmaster who despises them and disrespects them and disregards them. Then, the real God shows up and absolutely destroys the Pharaoh and which liberates his children to be free to worship him, that's redemption.

Likewise, we as the children of God are freed by the cross of Jesus to be liberated from sin, addiction, compulsion, idolatry, selfishness, whatever enslaves us. So, we are liberated through the cross of Jesus to run free and live new lives and have joy and sing songs and worship God together as His people. **This is our redemption and our liberation, Praise His Name.**

Additionally, in the Roman times the agora or slave market image was current, the word for redeemer was exagoradzo “out of the slave market”. This is a good illustration but the Exodus is the best redemption story.

4. **New Covenant Sacrifice** — *We were not redeemed by silver/gold but by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. 1 Pet 1:17-19*

Jesus is our new covenant sacrifice. *1 Peter 1:18 and 19, ”You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers.”* that's tradition. *”not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”* More than 450 times the bible speaks of blood. Almost every time the bible speaks of blood it does so in conjunction with death. **Adam and Eve sinned, and God slaughtered an animal** to cover their sin. The slaughter and the bloodshed is always to cover the sin. Noah gets off the ark and the first thing he does offers a sacrifice. Why? He knew that apart from God's grace he, too, should have perished.

The Old Covenant is foreshadowing. New Covenant is fulfillment as foretold by *Jeremiah 31: 31-34, “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying,*

'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.'

The New Covenant is further described in the New Testament, in Hebrews and almost entirely written on these points: **We don't need a priest. We have Jesus. We don't need a temple to be in God's presence. We have Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We don't need a lamb, we have Jesus.** John the Baptist says, *"Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world," John 1:29 and 36.* When Jesus went to the cross and He declared in *John 16:30 "It is finished,"* all of the work of the New Covenant was completed and that was the final bloodshed that was necessary for the remission of sin.

5. **Justification** – *By faith in Christ we are justified before God. Gal 2:16 and 2 Cor 5:21* Martin Luther: *The Great Exchange: Our Sin for His Righteousness.*

Jesus is our justification. *Gal 2:16 "we know that a person is not justified by works of the law",* that is rule keeping, that is religion, *"but through faith in Jesus Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified."* The imagery here is that God is the judge and is holy, righteous, and good. We are sinful, fallen, evil, depraved, corrupt, and bad. So, how could we possibly stand before God unless he declared us righteous so that we might enter his eternal presence.

In *Exodus 34:5 "the Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love, mercy, faithfulness, compassion, but he does not leave the guilty unpunished."* Because He's holy and just and we are sinners and guilty, He must contend with our wickedness. He can not just let it pass. **The question of justification, was a central issue in the reformation: How can we stand before God? Or How can we become righteous?** Jesus says "Be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect." So the standard is perfection. This is in your thoughts, words and deeds, your motives, your intents. It includes sins of commission as well as omission.

Paul in *Philippians 3:4-10* says that he was very religious, *"a Hebrew of Hebrews circumcised on the eighth day, tribe of Benjamin, as to the law, faultless, .. had the zeal to persecute the church"* and then he says in *Philippians 3:8 "Because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus... All this I consider, Rubbish. In order to gain Christ and be found in Him"* in verse 9, *"And I have obtained a righteousness not from the law but that comes only through faith in Christ."* Remember it was the righteous folks that crucified Christ so we must call both sinners and righteous people to repent and trust Christ.

To Paul, that righteousness that comes by faith, is gift righteousness, it is declared righteousness. It comes from Jesus. Look at *2 Corinthians 5:21: "God made him who knew no sin to become sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* **Even better, this righteousness comes in 2 forms: Imputed Righteousness** is for Eternal Life/Heaven, where we are declared righteous (legal standing) and **Imparted Righteousness** is for life, in that it brings: a new heart, new nature, new desires, and new gifts to do ministry. Spiritual gifts. This is all the work of the Holy Spirit. The source of imparted righteousness is the Holy Spirit.

Theologically, we call imparted righteousness, regeneration. We say, "Jesus is my righteousness," we mean both Justification and Regeneration and both Imputed righteousness and imparted righteousness. **Therefore, we stand justified before God,** with a whole new life full of passion, joy and purpose through the Holy Spirit. We look forward, to the day when we get to stand before God and are declared righteous because of the finished work of Christ, and for life that continues forever with Him, that is eternal life.

Martin Luther called this, The Great Exchange: Our sin for His righteousness, Our death for His life, Our unholiness for His holiness, Our condemnation for His salvation, Our separation from the Father for His intimacy with the Father.

6. Propitiation – *We deserve wrath: But God in His love sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:10 and 1 Cor 5:7*

Jesus is our propitiation. This word appears four times in the Greek New Testament and is sometimes translated 'sacrifice of atonement'. *1 John 4:10* is one example: "*This is love, not that we have loved God.*" not that we went first, not that we initiated, "*but that God has loved us.*" How do we know that? "*And sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*" Propitiation IS how a loving God demonstrates His love!" We know God loves us because He propitiated our sin.

What happens with propitiation is that Jesus stands in our place, and the wrath of God is poured out on Jesus, and it is therefore propitiated, diverted, taken away, from sinners who are in Jesus Christ.

This is shown in the Passover, when literally the wrath of God was going to visit every home, except those who were covered, literally, by blood, see *Exodus 12:24*. This is Substitution. And, as they were covered by blood, so the wrath of God "*passed over them*". Just as we are covered by the blood of Jesus, *1 Corinthians 5:7* "*Jesus Christ, our Passover lamb, has been slain.*" He's the blood that covers us so that the propitiating work of God is accomplished, so that the wrath of God passes over. Jesus is our propitiation.

7. Expiation – *In propitiation God diverted His wrath from us, in expiation we are cleansed from the stain of sin. 1 Jn 1:7-9*

Jesus is our expiation. Let's differentiate between propitiation and expiation. Propitiation is where the wrath of God is diverted from me; expiation is my cleaning from ALL sin. When we talk about expiation, we are addressing both the sins we have committed but also the sins committed against us by others. This is powerfully healing to those who suffer the deep hurt as a victim of terrible things.

1 John 1:7: "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another. And the blood of Jesus," the cross, "*Purifies us,*" or cleanses us, "*from all unrighteousness.*" ALL unrighteousness. Sin, in the Bible, is connected with defilement. It's showing that sin is filthy, it's dirty, it defiles us. We need to be cleansed (take an emotional bath). Many have been sinned against and become defiled and even the places were defiled, and they too have the need for cleansing. This is a huge issue. Depression, medication, suicide, kids who harm themselves - they're all crying out for the cross especially the work of expiation.

The doctrine of expiation is shown for us in the second goat on the day of Yom Kippur atonement. The first goat was the "sacrificial goat", the second goat was the "scapegoat". Sins confessed, but not slaughtered, then sent free. The sin was laid on the animal, and it was taken away and the animal set free to live a life in freedom. Well, our sin was laid on Jesus, at the cross, He took the punishment for all our sin and in Him we are cleansed or purified. So now we're not defined by what we've done or what's been done against us, but what Jesus has done for us on the cross for us. And the blood of Jesus, *1 John 1:9* says, "cleanses us from all our unrighteousness." We are then seen as dressed in a white robe, clean before a Holy God.

This doctrine is hugely important. Many people, could have their whole life changed if they understood that they could be clean. They would not need to manage, deal with, deny, blame-shift for the sins that have been committed against them. They would not need to say things like, "I'm fine, it doesn't really bother me." They could actually, biblically deal with the sin that was committed against them and understand the expiating work of Jesus which can cleanse them freely from the bondage of defilement, hurt, anger, bitterness, guilt, or shame.

8. **Ransom** — *Jesus Christ is the one God, one Mediator between God and men, who gave himself a ransom for all. 1Tim 2:5-6*

Jesus is our ransom. *1 Timothy 2:5-6 "There is one God, one mediator between God and men; the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom." Jesus says this himself in Mark 10:45 "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

The concept here is really banking and commerce, and every time we sin, we accrue a debt to God. We are indebted with a mountain of debt to God. To pay this we need need a mediator, someone to mediate between us and God. To do so adequately, that person would need to be fully God and fully human to mediate our debt of sin.

So, we would need a mediator who was both divine and human, who mediated between us and God the Father and also was willing to pay our debt. That's the concept of ransom. Our debt is to God, and Jesus is our God-man mediator, and he pays our debt or pays a ransom to free us.

9. **Example** — *Christ was fully God and fully Man and suffered hardship/ pain and death as an example for us. 1 Pet 2:21 and Heb 4:15; 5:8*

Jesus is our example. *1 Peter 2:21: For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.* Also in Philippians 2:1-10 Jesus is our example. The theological term for this is Christus Exemplar.

Jesus Christ is, was, and always will be God. Eternally, fully God, who came into human history fully man, fully human being. Therefore, the God/Man (TheoAnthropos), fully God and fully man. Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD, declared that Jesus Christ had two natures, human and divine - in hypostatic union, without loss mixture of their separate identities. This was also later confirmed in the Westminster Confession.

Hebrews 4:15 "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with us in our weakness." Instead, we have Jesus, and he does sympathize with us, because he's been tempted in every way, as we are, yet without sin.

He lived His life in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is called "Jesus Christ," Christ means "anointed of the Holy Spirit." At the baptism of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was here, God the Father speaks, "This is my Son, in whom I am well pleased." Then in Luke 4, Jesus for 40 days in the wilderness was led by the Holy Spirit. In Philippians 2:5-11 Jesus sets aside the divine rights and the use of his divine attributes, though he still possesses them.

Hebrews 5:8 Jesus was "*perfected through his suffering.*" Which means when we suffer, we must suffer like Jesus suffered: By the power of the Holy Spirit.

One pastor, who suffered under Communist rule, made this great statement. He said, "Christians are like nails - the harder you hit us, the deeper we go." And it is through the cross of Jesus, not only do we get salvation, but we learn how to suffer and die well for the sake of the Gospel.

Therefore, don't waste your pain, your hardship, your suffering, or even your death. You pay so much for it, it costs you so much, it comes at such a high expense. Instead, use them as a witness, use them for the Gospel, use them like Jesus did as a testimony to the goodness and faithfulness of God. Even as the Holy Spirit was with Jesus on the cross, allow God to do something in you and through you, for His greater glory.

10. **Reconciliation** – *Sin destroys relationships and separates people, Let us all... forgive others as Christ forgave you. Eph 4:30-35 f 5:2*

Jesus is our reconciliation. Consider the power and pattern of sin: we sin, immediately we hide from God, we hide from one another, we cover ourselves in shame. So, sin has the effect of destroying relationships, separating people.

Ephesians 4:31 - 5:2 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore, be imitators of God as dearly loved children of God; and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us"

Here's what happens: **You will be sinned against.** **And the Bible says you have two options. You can become bitter; or you become like Jesus.** Bitterness is oftentimes not caused by the magnitude of the sin, but the proximity of the offender. Those closest to you may hurt you the most.

The culture is crying out for community, and global harmony, and for peace, and for international unity, and the answer is - Jesus is the only one. We need the Prince of Peace to get His Shalom, the peace which passes all understanding as per *Philippians 4:6* "...be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." *7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*"

Summary – Christ is the Perfect Revelation of God

Therefore, we see the Perfect Revelation of God when we look at the cross. Colossians 1:15; John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 It is all about the cross and the crucified life of the believer ... Praise His Holy Name!!

Colossians 1:15 "Jesus is the image of the invisible God." If you want to know who God is, look to Jesus. And the centerpiece of Jesus' life is the cross. **If you really want to know who God is, look at the cross. Look at Jesus and the cross. Jesus is our revelation.**

When we look at the Cross of Christ: We see the perfect intersection of love, justice, holiness, and mercy. God is fully good, fully just, fully holy, fully loving, fully merciful, fully forgiving. What we see at the cross is a God that is unlike every other religious concept of God. **We see Relationship Not Religion** when we look at John 3: 16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

Our God is not a God who asks for blood, He offers His own. That's a great God. Our God is a God who puts Himself in our place, pours out His wrath, His justice, His holiness on Himself, and extends to us His grace or unmerited favor, undeserved love, He justifies us, imputes His righteousness to us, gives us imparted righteousness with a new heart, new joy, new power, a new life forever with Him through Jesus. It is very hard to understand anything about God apart from the cross. And through the cross we can understand and appreciate who God is; The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All of the attributes of God, come together at the cross of Jesus. We see His Sovereignty, Omniscience, Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Eternal Life, Holiness, Righteousness, Justice, Love (Goodness, Grace, Mercy), Truth and Immutability (S,O,O,EL,H,R/J,L,T,I).

Jesus is our substitute, our victor, our redeemer, our new covenant sacrifice, our justifier, our propitiator, our expiation, our ransom, our example, our reconciler, and is the complete revelation of God.

We began with 1 Corinthians 2:1-4 and will end with 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

"Now I would remind you, brothers: The Gospel is continual." We must continually remind our people of it. Because if we assume it, it is not long before they deny it. So we must assume nothing. You say, "But I feel like I'm telling them all the time." Paul says, *"I'm reminding you."* "Brothers" - they're already Christians. *"Let me remind you, brothers."* Continual. Continual. Continual explanation of the cross, of the Gospel I preach to you. *"Which you received,"* so it must be personal, this is faith, someone has to personally receive this truth. *"In which you stand, and by which you are being saved."* That regeneration, that filling of the gospel gap.

"If you hold fast to the word I preach to you, unless you believe in vain." It's essential, this is something you must continually believe. *"For I delivered to you as of first importance."* So it is, in every way, central. It's of first importance. You can't teach marriage apart from the cross. You can't teach parenting apart from the cross. You can't teach friendship apart from the cross. You can't teach work apart from the cross - you can't teach anything apart from the cross of Jesus. Because it is of first importance, that means it precedes anything else you're teaching on. And it makes sense of everything else you will teach on.

He goes on to say, *"For what I received, that the Gospel is eternal"* - it gets passed from one generation to the next, without any modification. Paul says to the Galatians, *"If anyone changes it, they're sent from Satan, they're a demon, and they're going to hell. So don't follow them."* That Christ; it's Christological, it's all about Jesus. Say the name of Jesus all the time. It's the name that's above every other name, keep telling them about Jesus.

If you use the name Jesus, your hearers will use the name Jesus. If you answer all the questions with Jesus, they'll answer all their friend's questions with Jesus. The key to evangelism is to make sure it's always, only, all about Jesus. And people will understand, that's how you answer all the questions. Jesus.

He goes on to say that it is penal: *"Christ died."* A penalty must be paid for sin. *"For our sins,"* that it is substitutional. *"In accordance with the Scriptures,"* it is biblical. *"That he was buried, and on the third day, he rose, in accordance with the Scriptures."* It is eschatological. It shows us our future and our eternal state, and it reminds us that this life is so exceedingly short; and that forever is a really long time.

How to Personally Pray, with Thanksgiving, the 10 Aspects of the Cross: *(If praying this in a group setting switch “our” for “my”).*

Father God, I thank you for the Gospel of Jesus.

*Lord Jesus, I thank you that you are **my Substitute**. You died in my place for my sins, you're **my Victor**, you conquered my enemies of death, Satan and demons. You're **my Redeemer**, you liberated me from my sin. You're **my New Covenant Sacrifice**, that you shed your blood in my place for my sins. That you are **my Justifier**, that you are my **Righteousness** is gifted to me, both imputed and imparted. That you're **my Propitiation**, that there is now no condemnation of me for I am “in union” with Christ. That you're **my Expiation**, that I am no longer seen as defiled, impure or dirty, but rather I am seen, by you, as cleansed, purified and clothed in a white robe.*

*I thank you that you are **my Ransom**, that you have paid the great debt that I owe. That you are my example, that I can win and lose, I can suffer and enjoy, I can live and die following your example by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*I thank you that you are **my Reconciler**, that I can be loved by you and love you, and that I can have loving, ongoing relationships, including family, marriage, work and friendship with those here on this earth.*

*And that, Lord Jesus, I thank you so much that on the cross, I see the **Perfect Revelation** of You (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and I know who my God is, when I look at the cross. Jesus, I love you, I thank you for what you did for me on the cross. So, Father it is my prayer that you would ignite a fresh passion in me to live and walk in the resurrection power of your Son Jesus Christ, through the daily filling your Holy Spirit, such that I will always proclaim everything about you, in light of the work of Christ on the cross. To you be the Glory and Honor, Forever and Ever.*

I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Galatians 2:20 *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*