

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro

How do you understand the cross?

3. Synoptic Gospels' Perspective

a. Mark

Crucifixion is essential for salvation. (8:27-33)

Ransom or price for redeeming (10:45)

Completion of Messiahship (15:37-39)

b. Matthew

Ransom (20:2)

Sign of glory (26:64, 19:28, 24:30)

c. Luke

Giving a new covenant (22:19-20)

The way of discipleship (9:23, 23:26)

4. Paul's Understanding

a. Wisdom and Power (1 Cor. 1:17-24, 2:2,8)

Why is the cross of Jesus contrary to the "miraculous signs and wisdom"?

b. Complete Law (Gal. 3:1-3, 12-13, 21, 5:11, 6:14-15, Rom. 10:4)

Read Gal. 1:6. What do you think made the people turn to a different gospel?
(2:3-4, 4:9, 5:2,6, 6:12, 15)

What do you think the role of the Law of Moses is? (Rom. 3:20, 5:20)

c. Sacrifice of Atonement (Rom. 3:25)

Where shall we find out the sacrifice of atonement in the Old Testament?

d. New Creation (Gal. 2:20-21, 5:9-10, 24, 6:14-15, Rom. 6:6-7)

5. Other NT Book's Understanding

a. Love (1 John 4:9-10)

6. Martin Luther's Understanding

- a. "Qui non est crucianus non est Christianus."
Whoever is not crucified is not a Christian.
Letting God help us to be like Jesus and join His suffering.
- b. Prayer, Meditation, and **Trial** (Job. 42:5)
"Thus you see how David, in the Psalm mentioned, complains so often about all kinds of enemies, arrogant princes or tyrants, false spirits and factions, whom he must tolerate because he meditates, that is, because he is occupied with God's word (as has been said) in all manner of ways. For as soon as God's Word takes root and grows in you, the devil will harry you, and will make a real doctor [of theology] of you, and by his assaults will teach you to seek and love God's Word."
- c. God is hidden in Christ's suffering
"It is true that God, as He is revealed, does not desire the death of the sinner; but God as He is not revealed does will the death of the sinner, and in fact wills all things that come to pass."

7. John Wesley's Understanding

- a. God's Love

"Sinners, turn: why will you die? God, your Savior, asks you why. God, who did your souls retrieve, died himself, that you might live. Will you let him die in vain? Crucify your Lord again? Why, you ransomed sinners, why will you slight his grace and die?"
- b. Removal of guilt so that people can be holy.

Behold the Savior of mankind nailed to the shameful tree...
Help me to catch thy precious blood/Help me to taste thy dying love...
Then let us sit beneath His cross, and gladly catch the healing stream:
All things for Him account but loss, and give up all our hearts to Him:
Of nothing think or speak beside, my Lord, my Love, is crucified!

8. Closing Prayer