

SERMON OUTLINE

'KNOWING CHRISTIANITY'

Study - 5

'What do we believe about the cross?'

Key Question - Remembering that so many have in this way, what is it that made Christ's death upon the cross so special and so unique that the cross has come to be the church's logo?

Key Text - 1 Peter 3 v18.....

'For Christ (also) died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit....'

What are we told in this text about Christ's death upon the cross? These 3 things, at the very least.....

1. THE PURPOSE OF HIS DEATH

It couldn't be clearer - "For Christ (also) died for sins....."

A. CHRIST DIED AS OUR EXAMPLE

See - 1 Pet 2 v21 - 22

B. CHRIST DIED AS OUR SAVIOUR

He died - "for sins...." See - Matt 1 v21 & 1 Cor 15 v3a

Key Question - Why do we need a Saviour to save us from our sins?

Answer - Sin brings the judgement of God - death! See - Ez 18 v20. This death is not just physical, but spiritual. See - Is 59 v2. In other words, sin is a barrier that prevents access to God. This is why we need a Saviour in Jesus - to take away that barrier. That is, it's - "to bring you to God."

2. THE NATURE OF HIS DEATH

Key Question—What happened at the cross to bring us to God?

Answer - There was a substitution - "the righteous for the unrighteous...." See - 2 Cor 5 v21.

Examples of this - Think here of both the Passover in Egypt and the story of Barabbas at the time of Jesus trial.

'Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned he stood'

3. THE TRIUMPH OF HIS DEATH

Christ died - "once for all...." But how can we know for sure that there is nothing left for Christ to do and nothing else for us to add? The answer is the resurrection - "He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit...." The resurrection is God's seal of approval concerning the work which Christ finished, once and for all, upon the cross.

'Hallelujah! What a Saviour!'