

The Message of the Cross

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"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" -Isaac Watts 1674-1748
(# 88, Hymns of Glorious Praise: Gospel Publishing House, 1969.)

- Vs. 1 When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.
- Vs. 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- Vs. 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- Vs. 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

1. The Cross is Everything!!!!

Galatians 6:14

*May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through
which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

What Christ did for us on the cross is so awesome that Paul writes that it is the ONLY thing worth boasting about. The cross of Christ has far surpassed any of the world's greatest accomplishments. Never before, or since, has there been a hero that could top what Christ did for us by giving His life for us! Christ is our Hero, our Redeemer, our Savior. What He did on the cross is our hope and salvation. The cross is our lifeline. The Cross is EVERYTHING!!!!

Explain} This is only true for believers. To us it is everything, but the cross means nothing to someone who has not received Christ as Lord and Savior.

1 Cor. 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The cross only has meaning for us, if it is saving us. To me the cross is everything.

2. The Cross Demands ALL

A. The cross demands our **FOCUS**:

Hebrews 12:2

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

God expects us to focus our attention on Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross. Because Christ and His cross represent everything that matters, He should be the most important thing to us. We should have our eyes fixed on Jesus, letting nothing distract us from Him.

B. The cross demands our **HEART**:

Matthew 22:37

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' "

God commands that we love with all our HEART. It is not enough that we think that Jesus was a good person, or that we even love Him in part. We must love Him with everything we are. The only way we can love Him that much is if we understand what He's done for us. If we realize the meaning of the cross, we can't help but love Him, we will love... NO DOUBT.

C. The cross demands our **MIND**:

2 Cor. 10:5

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Explain} Capturing thoughts...

Bird fly over head, but don't let it build a nest in your hair.

D. The cross demands our **SOUL**:

Christ died to buy us back for God. We sold ourselves to death and hell through our sin, but Christ paid the price so we can live. Christ died so that we could live forever with God. We deserve death, but we can have life, if only we believe.

Salvation Call