

**ORDER FOR THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
*A Service of Celebration and Covenantal Renewal*

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD, Part 1**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**The Message of the Cross: Love So Amazing, So Divine Pt. 1**  
**Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?**

**WELCOME**

**THE CROSS AND THE PROMISE OF GOD** —Scotty Smith

**INVOCATION** —Elder David White

*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.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 119:169-172 (NIV)

169 May my cry come before you, O LORD;  
give me understanding according to your word.

170 May my supplication come before you;  
deliver me according to your promise.

171 May my lips overflow with praise,  
for you teach me your decrees.

172 May my tongue sing of your word,  
for all your commands are righteous.

**As we begin our survey of the cross of Jesus, the first thing we must affirm is its centrality in the unfolding story of redemption and restoration the Bible is telling.**

**Genesis 3:15** - And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

**1 Corinthians 15:3** - For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...

**Luke 24:25-27** - He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

**GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**THE CROSS AND THE LOVE OF JESUS**

*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?*

**The cross of Jesus confronts the questions:** “What am I relying on for salvation...what am I counting on to make things right? How can I deal with the sense of shame and guilt that greets me every morning, and follows me to bed every night? Upon what basis can I hope to have a relationship with God? Is there any answer for all the evil, not only in my own heart, but also throughout the world?”

Am I relying on my goodness?

Am I relying on my obedience?

Am I relying on God’s “niceness”?

Am I relying on religion?

Am I relying on non-religion? **OR... Am I relying solely on the death of Jesus?**

**Galatians 3:10-14** - All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” <sup>11</sup> Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.” <sup>12</sup> The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.”

<sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

<sup>14</sup> He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

- On the cross, Jesus took the **full** judgment I deserve for my sin
- Jesus fulfilled **all** the demands of God’s law for me upon his cross
- If I am trusting in my performance or obedience for acceptance with God, I am still under the deserved curse of God’s judgment
- If I am trusting in Jesus’ performance for me, I am living in the eternal blessing and undeserved acceptance of God.

**THE CROSS AND THE BASIS OF MY HOPE**

*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.*

*We’re 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.*

**Heidelberg Catechism, question and answer #1**

Q. What is your **only** comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

**COMMUNION**

*Welcome to our celebration of the Lord’s Supper. All who confess Jesus Christ as their Savior are invited to be served. If you do not profess saving faith in Jesus, we ask that you refrain from taking communion and encourage you to prayerfully consider speaking with a Pastor or Elder. To receive the bread and cup--the body and blood of Christ broken and shed for you-- please come forward to the nearest table and an Elder will serve you. Elders and Deacons are available to help guide you. If you cannot come to the table, please let a Deacon or Elder know and you will be served at your seat.*

**RESPONSE TO THE LORD THROUGH GIVING****—DEACONS OFFERING**

*We who drink of Jesus’ grace are to be those who offer a cup of cold water of mercy in his name.*

## BENEDICTION



### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION:

1. What had the most impact on you from our time today in God's Word and worship? What was encouraging, convicting, and/or calling for more clarification?
2. As we begin to "survey" the wondrous cross together, what is both glorious and confusing about how the story of Jesus' death for sinners? Are there any particular questions or problems you have as you think about the cross as the central image of the Christian faith? How would you respond to someone who said, "I don't think very much of a faith system that depicts an angry harsh god crushing his son as the only way to keep people from going to hell. Why doesn't he just forgive people and have done with it?"
3. If Jesus' death upon the cross is the precious means by which every one of your sins, past, present and future (in word, thought and deed), have been forever forgiven... what difference should this make in your life... with respect to your guilty conscience, your love for God, and how you deal with the sins and failures of others?
4. Close today by reflecting on the question and answer Scott led us through as we came to the Lord's Table today, the Heidelberg Catechism. How do these words both arrest and deeply encourage your heart? Let us pray that the only and sure hope we have in Jesus will radically affect how we live out the implications of the gospel in our relationships and in our community! By the way, who will you invite to come to church with you next week?

**FOR NEXT WEEK: "WHAT DID THE CROSS OF JESUS ACCOMPLISH"**  
**COL. 2:13-15.**