

No 152

PASTORS' CONFERENCE - JULY 1996

(Faith Centre - Hyderabad - EKB)

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THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST

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Readings: *Mat 26:57-27:61, Lk 22:54-23:56, Jn 18:13-19:42.*

1. **The Cross of Truth**

The Jewish leaders plotted to kill Jesus because He spoke the truth, *Jn 18:37, Jn 8:31,32,45,46,55*. He often claimed equality with God, and the Jewish leaders who only saw Him as a man, condemned this as blasphemy. *Lev 24:16, Jn 5:17,18, Jn 8:51-59, Jn 10:27-33, Jn 19:7*. Finally, in *Mat26:64*, (quoting *Dan 7:13,14* of Himself), where He spoke openly of His divinity before the leaders, they condemned Him to death; they were also envious of the people following Him, *Jn 11:45-50, Mat 27:18*.

2. **The Cross of Righteousness**

The Roman Judge declared Jesus innocent and without fault, *Jn 18:38, Jn 19:4,6*, but allowed Him to be crucified out of fear of the people, *Jn 19:12-16*. Jesus lived a life of perfect righteousness before God, *Is 53:11*.

3. **The Cross of Humility**

Jesus did not have to be arrested and killed. He voluntarily laid down His life as a sacrifice for our sins. *1Cor 15:3, 1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, Mat 26:52-54, Jn 10:17,18, Mk 14:36, Jn 15:13-15*. God's love for sinners led Christ to the cross, *1Jn 4:7-10*. Jesus humbled Himself from God's throne to the cross for our salvation, *Phil 2:5-8*.

4. **The Cross of Servanthood**

Jesus was on the cross for six hours from 9am to 3pm on Good Friday, *Mk 15:25,34*. The last three hours, the whole land was in darkness, *Mk 15:33*. This was not an eclipse of the sun because it was full moon, as it always is at Easter time or Passover, *Ex 12*.

Jesus spoke seven times from the cross:

<i>Lk 23:34</i>	To forgive those who crucified Him
<i>Jn 19:26,27</i>	To care for His Mother
<i>Lk 23:43</i>	To speak salvation to the dying thief
<i>Mat 27:46</i>	To speak out <i>Ps 22:1</i> to God the Father
<i>Lk 23:46</i>	To commend His Spirit into His Father's hands
<i>Jn 19:28</i>	To fulfil God's Word He said, "I thirst!"
<i>Jn 19:30</i>	To declare the completion of His work

Jesus came as the Servant of God to fulfil God's work of salvation for lost sinners.
Mat 20:28, Gal 5:13, Is 53:11, Lk 19:10.

5. **The Cross of Authority**

Jesus was not a victim on the cross, He was in charge. Jesus ruled over His own crucifixion and His death, and the Centurion "in charge" realised this. Jesus, not the Centurion, controlled this crucifixion, *Mat 27:54, Mk 15:39, Jn 10:18*.

6. **The Cross of Access to God's Presence**

The veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom by the Hand of God as Jesus died, *Mat 27:51*. The veil had previously separated the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies in the temple, separating man from God's presence, but God ripped the veil in two when

Jesus died. The way into God's presence is now opened up for us by Jesus' Blood, *Heb 10:19,20*. As Jesus died there was a powerful earthquake and the rocks split, *Mat 27:51*.

7. The Body of Jesus was laid in a new tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea after it had been wrapped in linen, *Mat 27:57-60*.

THE TIME BETWEEN CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION

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1. Jesus said that He would be three days in the heart of the earth, *Mat 12:40*, and that after three days He would rise again, *Mat 16:21, Mat 17:23*. Friday - Saturday - Sunday.
2. While Jesus' Body lay in the tomb His soul descended into Hades or "Hell", the place of departed souls awaiting judgment. *Ps 16:10, Ac 2:27, Ac 2:31, Eph 4:9,10, 1Pet 3:19*.
3. The soul of Jesus descended in triumph over these regions taking captivity captive, *Eph 4:8,9*, and taking into His power the keys of death and hell, *Rev 1:18*.
"By death He destroyed him who had the power of death, that is the devil himself,"
Heb 2:14, Phil 2:10, Col 2:15, 1Jn 3:8b.
4. Jesus preached to the spirits in prison, *1Pet 3:19*, declaring His Lordship and authority over every realm.
5. Before Jesus died for our sins on the Cross, Hades was in two sections:
 - a. Hades of the righteous
 - b. Hades of the damned, or condemned.

This is explained in *Lk 16:19-31*. Lazarus was in the Hades of the righteous, "Abraham's bosom", while the rich man was in the Hades of the unrighteous. When Jesus arose He gathered all the saints out of the Hades of the righteous and took them with Him into the presence of God in heaven. So now, in the church age, when a believer dies, his/her soul and spirit go straight into the presence of the Lord in heaven, *2Cor 5:8, Phil 1:23*.
6. When Jesus arose, not only did He take all the Old Testament saints out of the Hades of the righteous, but also many old Testament saints arose in their physical resurrection bodies, from their graves, and went into Jerusalem and appeared to many people living there, *Mat 27:52,53*. This was a very awesome event and fulfilled the part of the Passover ceremony known as "first fruits," *Lev 23:10-14, 1Cor 15:23*.

[Passover was of three parts:

- a. The offering of the lamb, *Ex 12*
- b. The eating of the unleavened bread, *Ex 12*
- c. The firstfruits offering, *Lev 23:10-14.*]

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

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Readings: *Mat 16:21, Mat 17:23, Mat 28:1-10, Mk 16:1-20, Lk 24:1-53, Jn 20:1-31, Jn 21:1-25, Ac 1:1-11, 1Cor 15:12-21.*

1. On the third day God raised up Christ from the dead. *Ac 2:24,32,33, 3:15, 4:2,10,33, 5:31, Jn 10:18, Rom 8:11.*
2. The tomb of Jesus Christ is now empty.
The Angels said, "Why do you seek the Living among the dead? He is not here, He is risen!" *Lk 24:5,6.* The tombs of other religious leaders are occupied but Jesus' tomb is **EMPTY. HE IS RISEN!**
3. Only Jesus has conquered death, *Jn 10:17,18.* He has abolished death, *2Tim 1:10.* He alone has the keys of death and hell, *Rev 1:18.* By death, Jesus Christ has destroyed him that had the power of death, that is the devil, *Heb 2:14.*
4. The body of Jesus that was crucified and buried was raised to life again and glorified, *Lk 24:36-43.* It was the same body of flesh and bones, now glorified with God's glory.
5. The resurrection of Jesus was/is the central point of apostolic preaching, proving that Jesus was and is God's long promised Saviour, Redeemer and Lord, *Ac 2:24,30-36, Ac 3:15, Ac 4:2,10, Ps 16:10.* By confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved, *Rom 10:9.*
6. The resurrection is the guarantee that what Jesus did for us on the cross, as a sacrifice for our sins, has been perfectly fulfilled in every respect:
we are, by faith in Him redeemed, cleansed, forgiven of all our sins and made right with God forever, *1Cor 15:14-18.*
7. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the guarantee that there is coming a day when the Lord will return and raise up all believers from the dead to be with Him forever.
1Cor 15:42-55, 1Thes 4:13-18, Jn 14:3, Lk 14:14, 1Cor 15:23, Jn 6:40.
8. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the guarantee that the Word of God, spoken by Jesus in His earthly ministry is completely true, *1Cor 15:14.* Every word spoken by Jesus about His coming death, burial and resurrection has been fulfilled. *Mat 16:21, Mat 17:22,23.*
9. After Jesus arose from the dead, He appeared many times to His disciples showing them He is truly alive again. *Mat 28:9,17, Mk 16:9,14, Lk 24:15,31,36-45, Jn 20:16,19-23, 1Cor 15:5-8.*
10. After Jesus had frequently appeared to His disciples, over a forty day period and had taught them many things, *Ac 1:3,* He ascended into heaven, *Ac 1:9,* where He is enthroned at the Father's right hand, *Heb 1:3, 10:12.*
11. Now Jesus Christ is seated on the throne of God, *Rev 3:21.* He is interceding for us, *Heb 7:25,* sending us the Holy Spirit, *Jn 7:39, Jn 14:16,* ruling over all His enemies, *1Cor 15:25-28, Heb 10:12,13, Eph 1:19-23,* and is speaking forth His Word into the

church and the world, *Rev 2&3*, as High Priest, King of Kings and the Prophet.

12. The resurrection of Jesus and His ascension ensures that there is a day coming soon when He will return to this earth as Ruler over all, and Judge of all people.
1Thes 4:16, Rev 11:15, Ac 17:31, Mat 25:31, Rom 14:10, 2Cor 5:10.

When this happens the Kingdom of God will have come on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus Christ will rule over the whole earth. The Kingdom of God will be here in all fulness.

THE EXCHANGE AT THE CROSS

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By His death on the Cross, Jesus Christ:

TOOK AWAY

1. Took our sins and guilt before God, in His own body on the Cross, *1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, Rev 1:5, Is 53:6.*
2. Took our sinfulness and unrighteousness on the Cross, *2Cor 5:21, Is 53:6, Rom 6:6,11*
3. Took our separation from God because of sin, *Is 59:1,2, Mat 27:46, Ps 22:1, Col 1:21, Eph 2:13*
4. Took our sicknesses and diseases, *Mat 8:17, Is 53:4.*
5. Took the curse of the Law upon sinners *Gal 3:13, [Deut 28:15 and following]*
The curse of poverty, sickness, destruction and trouble.
6. Took our poverty of life, *2Cor 8:9.*

In this way He also removed our:

punishment of eternal death, *Jn 3:16,*
blindness, *Is 42:7, 2Cor 4:4,*
darkness, *Is 9:2,*
weakness, *Heb 11:34,*
foolishness, *Jam 1:5,6,*
hate, *1Jn 3:15, Mat 5:44,*

4. And gave us His health and healing, *1Pet 2:24, Mal 4:2, Ac 3:16.*
5. And gave us the blessing of God in fulness, *Gal 3:14, Rom 8:32, Phil 4:19, Ps 84:11.* The blessing of provision, healing, safety and peace.

GAVE US

1. And gave us His forgiveness and cleansing from all sins. *Rev 1:5, Is 1:18, 1Cor 15:3, Rom 5:9, 1Jn 1:7, Eph 1:7*
2. And gave us His righteousness and freedom from sinfulness, *2Cor 5:21, Rom 6:11.*
3. And gave us His oneness with God, *2Cor 5:18, 1Pet 3:18, Eph 2:19, Heb 10:19.*
6. And gave us His riches of life. *2Cor 8:9.*

And gave us His:

reward of eternal life, *Jn 3:16, Jn 5:24.*
sight, *Mat 13:16, Ac 26:18.*
light, *Ac 26:18, Jn 8:12.*
strength, *Phil 4:13.*
wisdom, *1Cor 1:30.*
love, *Rom 5:5, Jn 13:34.*
eternal death, *Jn 5:24,*
fear, *Lk 5:10,*
slavery to sin, *Rom 6:1-14,*
bondage to satan, *Col 2:15,*
control of the world, *Gal 1:4,*

etc.

eternal life, *Jn 3:16,17.*
boldness, *Ac 4:13.*
freedom to obey God, *Jn 8:31-36.*
freedom to serve God, *Col 1:13.*
freedom to live for God, *Gal 6:14.*

Summary: Jesus Christ, by His death on the Cross and resurrection, took our old fallen life of sin, inherited from Adam, nailed it to the cross and crucified it dead. In its place He comes and lives in us, His life in all its fulness

WHAT DOES THE CROSS MEAN?

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1. That God loves sinners enough to die for them, *1Jn 4:10, Jn 3:16, 1Tim 1:15*.
2. That God's No 1 concern is to save sinners who are under God's wrath and anger and are heading for the eternal fires of hell. *Lk 19:10, Mat 9:13, Jn 1:29, 2Pet 3:9, 1Tim 2:4-6*.
3. That there is nothing else that can save a man or woman from eternal hell but the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, *Ac 4:12*.
4. Jesus did not have to go to the cross. He was not forced to. He willingly laid down His life to save us, *Jn 10:18*.
5. At any moment Jesus could have called on His Father and been rescued, *Mat 26:53*.
6. It was not the nails that held Jesus on the cross but it was His love for us and His obedience to the Father, *Mk 14:36*.
7. Good works, sacrifices, idol worship, pilgrimages, washing in the river, helping sick people cannot forgive our sins and save us, *Tit 3:5,6, Eph 2:9*.
8. No man can save himself.
9. Jesus Christ came to save sinners, *1Tim 1:15*. This is why He came.
10. He took all our sins upon Himself, *1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, 1Jn 2:2*.
11. His blood paid the price of forgiveness for all our sins and to justify us to God, *1Jn 1:7, Rom 5:9*.
12. He took away the sin-barrier between God and man and joined us back to God. *Is 59:1,2, 1Pet 3:18, Col 1:21,22, Eph 2:13, 2Cor 5:18*.

KEEP THE CROSS AT THE CENTRE

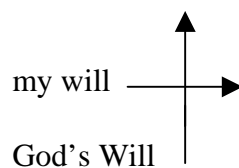
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1. The cross is the centre of the Bible so keep it in the centre of your life and ministry.
2. The Old Testament looks forward to the cross. *Gen 3:15, Gen 49:10, Ex 12:3-14, Is 53:5,6, Ps 22:16-18.*
3. The New Testament looks backward to the cross. *1Cor 2:2, 1Cor 15:3, 1Cor 11:23-26, 1Tim 1:15, Heb 9:14, 1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, Rev 5:6.*
4. **Keep the cross at the centre of your life.**
 It is your forgiveness, *1Pet 2:24, 1Cor 15:3*, and healing.
 your righteousness, *Rom 5:19*.
 your joining back to God, *1Pet 3:18*.
 your death to self and the old life of sin, *Rom 6:6,11, Lk 9:23*.
 your victory over satan, *Heb 2:14, Col 2:15*.
 your freedom from the world, *Gal 6:14*.
 your salvation.
5. **Keep the cross at the centre of your marriage.**
 The cross is your identity, to deny self -will and selfishness, and serve one another, *Gal 5:13,14*. Refuse to judge one another. Release and forgive each other and pray God's blessings on your wife/husband. This is the way of humility, to lay down your life for one another. *Eph 5:25, 1Pet 3:7, 1Jn 4:11, 1Jn 3:16*.
6. **Keep the cross at the centre of your family.**
 Teach your children what Jesus did on the cross, how He willingly died for our sins and rose again the third day. Teach them to believe in Jesus as their Saviour and Lord, to confess and repent of their sins and be cleansed in Jesus' blood. Teach them the way of the cross, of saying, "No" to self will and, "Yes" to God's will, the way of humility and servanthood to others. Teach them to be obedient and truthful, *Eph 6:4*.
7. **Keep the cross at the centre of your church.**
 Keep the Lord's Supper - communion in an important place in the church, *1Cor 11:23-26*. Keep it fresh and anointed. Keep preaching the message of the cross, *1Cor 2:2* and the power of the blood of Jesus. This is the centre of the Gospel. Keep focused on Jesus Christ the Lord, the Lamb, the King, the Saviour. He said, "If I am lifted up (crucified) from the earth, I will draw all people to Myself," *Jn 12:32*.
8. **Keep the cross at the centre of your preaching and evangelism.** When Paul went to Corinth, a very ungodly city, he preached, "Jesus Christ and Him crucified," *1Cor 2:2*. The message of the cross is the power of God, *1Cor 1:18,23,24*. Remember to include the resurrection when you preach the cross, that after three days in the grave, God raised up Christ from the dead and set Him at His right hand in the throne of heaven. *Ac 5:31, Ac 4:10, Ac 4:2, Ac 3:15, Ac 2:24, Heb 1:3*.

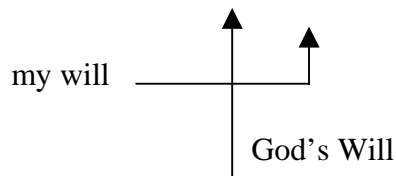
THE CROSS IS MY CROSS TOO

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1. The cross is not just Jesus' cross but it is my cross too, *Gal 2: 20, Rom 6:1-14, Lk 9:23*.
2. When Jesus was nailed to the cross, I was nailed there with Him. He took me with Him onto the cross, *Gal 2:20, Rom 6:6,11*.
When He died, I died. I was buried with Him, *Col 2:12, Rom 6:4*. Also when He rose from the dead, I was raised up with Him, *Rom 6:4, Col 2:12, Eph 2:6*.
3. Because I died with Christ, I am now dead to the old life of sin I used to live, *2Cor 5:17, Rom 6:6,11*. I have died to rebellion, lies, immorality, hate, pride, violence, stealing, unbelief, fear, unforgiveness, filthiness, drugs, pornography, cinema, the occult, witchcraft, idols, love of money, jealousy, etc.
4. The cross has set me free, *Jn 8:36, Rom 6:11,22*.
5. I can believe it, claim it, receive it, possess it, live in it, and be free.
6. Also the cross has set me free from this "world" system, *1Jn 2:15,16*, to serve God, *Gal 6:14, Gal 1:4, 1Jn 5:4*. I have died to the world, too. [The "world" is under satan's control, *1Jn 5:19, Jn 14:30*, and is full of people living independent from God, going their own way, worshipping false gods, and pleasing themselves.]
7. Through the cross God has brought me into a new life with Christ living in me, *Gal 2:20*, His truth, freedom, purity, faith, joy, life, righteousness, love, peace, kindness, humility, boldness, cleanness.
8. So Jesus tells me to pick up the cross every day, *Lk 9:23*.
9. Whenever my will crosses God's will I am faced with the cross.



The way of life is to yield to the cross and obey God.



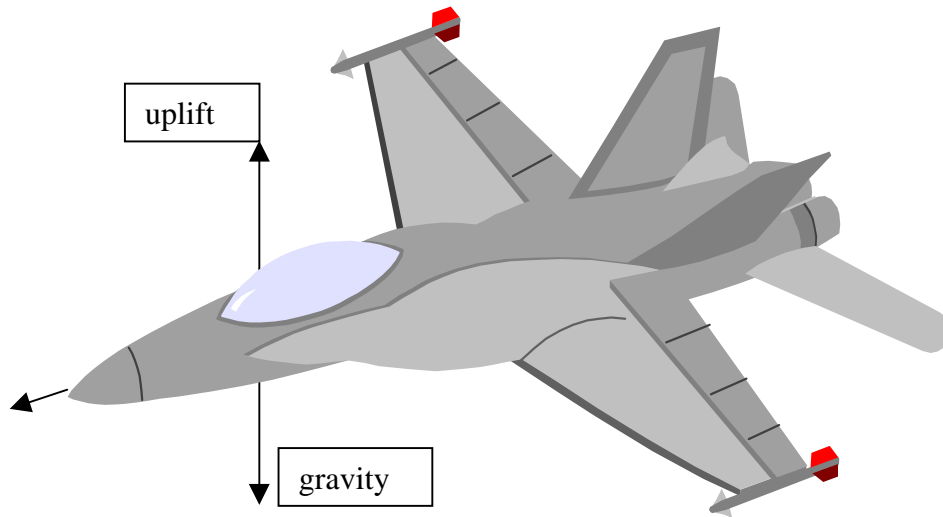
10. Testimony re anger. After years of bondage to anger I was set free by believing and confessing *Rom 6:6 and Rom 6:11*.
11. The "anger" may have been fear, lying, stealing, immorality, pride, hate, etc.

“CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY”

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Reading: *Col 1:26,27.*

1. Moses asked God, “Show me Your glory,” *Ex 33:18-23,34:5-8*, and God showed him His goodness, His Name, grace, compassion, mercy, longsuffering, truth, justice. This equals God’s Character and Nature, which is His glory.
2. “Christ in us” is the hope and expectation of God’s glory and character in us, now in this life. The Old Testament was Christ with us, *Ezk 48:35*. The New Testament is Christ in us, *Col 1:27*.
3. This message is the heart of the Gospel, *Col 2:6-10*. See NIV. “You have been given fulness in Christ,” *v10*.
4. After we have confessed our sins, turned from doing wrong, been forgiven, believed in Christ, given our lives to Him, He comes and lives in us. *Jn 17:23*.
5. Christian Baptism in water and with the Holy Spirit is saying, “the old life of self and sin is finished, and the new life of Christ is in me now,” *Rom 6:4, 2Cor 5:17, Col 2:12,13*.
6. *Gal 2:20* – “It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me”. “As He is so are we in this world,” *1Jn 4:17*.
7. The Christian life is not trying to be like Christ in our strength or rules, but it is Christ living His life in us, by faith in His Word.
8. Jesus has promised this to us: *Jn 17:22,23, Jn 15:4,5, Jn 14:16-20, Col 1:27, Gal 2:20, Mat 10:19,20, Phil 2:13, Phil 1:6*.
9. **PRACTICAL APPLICATION** - *Ac 3:6,12,16, Heb 13:21*.
When praying for someone, do not always be praying against their problems, those things that need to be changed. But proclaim, believe, thank God, that Christ is living in them His life, His truth, His joy, His rejoicing, His righteousness, His love, His power, His salvation, His authority, His health, His victory.
10. The new life of Christ within us overcomes the negatives of sin, fear, doubt, unbelief, lust, pride, etc.
11. *Rom 8:2* - The Life of the Spirit in us sets us free from the life of sin, *Gal 5:16*. Uplift overcomes gravity as when a plane is flying. The force of uplift overcomes the downward force of gravity. (See diagram on next page.)



12. The old life of sinful desire is not totally rooted out but it is overcome by the new life of Christ within. Pray for self and others as in No 9.