

**Holy Cross Day ~ Sunday, September 14, 2025**  
**“To God Be the Glory ~ Boasting in the Cross”**  
**1 Corinthians 1:18-25 & John 19:16-30**

“May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...”  
(Galatians 6:14)

The cross was the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus’ earthly life. It was for this reason that He was born, and His whole life had been an act of \_\_\_\_\_ that culminated in His laying down His life.

“Cursed is anyone who hangs on a tree.” (Deuteronomy 21:23)

Paul understood the cross—its meaning and \_\_\_\_\_—not just for Jews, but for all humanity. He was able to see \_\_\_\_\_ beyond the physical humiliation, pain, suffering, and death, to the power and \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

“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.” (1 Corinthians 1:18)

Although the cross was a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ and death—something to be \_\_\_\_\_—Paul says that for those who believe, the message of the cross is loud and clear: God’s ability to reveal love, life, and \_\_\_\_\_, through powerlessness, hatred, and defeat.

The Cross is the \_\_\_\_\_ event of all human history. It isn’t something to be \_\_\_\_\_ about—as that piece of graffiti depicting Alexamenos worshipping his god is meant to suggest—but something that we as believers can actually boast and \_\_\_\_\_ in.

**4 REASONS WE CAN BOAST AND GLORY IN THE CROSS**

**Reason #1.** \_\_\_\_\_ = **Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_.  
“God sent Christ Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to end all of God’s anger against us.” (Romans 3:25)

“Christ took away the curse the law put on us. He changed places with us.”  
(Galatians 3:13)

We all sin and fall \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s standards.

When we break God’s laws, we have to pay God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

“The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23)

**Finished** = *tete-lestai* =

“God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. In exchange He poured God’s goodness into us.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

**Reason #2.** \_\_\_\_\_ = **Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_.  
“He gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone.” (1 Timothy 2:6)

**Apolutrosis** = **redemption** = literally refers to \_\_\_\_\_ that were purchased in the marketplace. In a spiritual sense, we were all slaves to sin until Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us and set us \_\_\_\_\_.

“You are a slave to whatever controls you.” (2 Peter 2:19)

“Don’t be a slave of your desires living like people who don’t know God.” (1 Thess. 4:5)

“God bought you for a price so do not become slaves to people.” (1 Corinthians 7:23)

We become slaves to other people when we live for the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.

“Freedom is what we have. Christ has set us free. So stand then as free people and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again.” (Galatians 5:1)

Without the on-going strength and support of the \_\_\_\_\_, it’s easy for us to fall back into slavery. That’s why we can never take our redemption for \_\_\_\_\_—we need God.

“We can never redeem ourselves. We cannot pay God the price for our lives because the payment for human life is too great.” (Psalm 49:7)

**Reason #3.** \_\_\_\_\_ = **Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_.  
Reconciliation involves bringing \_\_\_\_\_ together who have been distanced by \_\_\_\_\_.

Whenever we do something to hurt a friend, a \_\_\_\_\_ occurs in our relationship and the longer it takes for us to deal with it, the \_\_\_\_\_ the gap becomes. In order to reconnect, the distance needs to be spanned, and there needs to be reconciliation—a \_\_\_\_\_ of relationship. In the same way, \_\_\_\_\_ separates us from God.

Through the Cross, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us to God. He restored our relationship to God, and like a bridge, \_\_\_\_\_ the gap between a sinful people and a holy God.

“We were God’s enemies but He made us His friends through the death of His Son. (Romans 5:10)

“Christ changed us from enemies into His friends and gave us the task of making others His friends also...” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_—our high priest—who brings us into the light of God’s presence—and we can come \_\_\_\_\_ to the throne of grace.

We’re not \_\_\_\_\_ to come to God on our own; however, we’re made worthy through the \_\_\_\_\_ work of Jesus on the Cross and can come to God in His name.

**Reason #4.** \_\_\_\_\_ = Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.

When it comes to transformation and change, the best the world has to offer us is an extreme make over, which most often only deals with \_\_\_\_\_ changes.

Our identity is much deeper than that—who we are is an internal, \_\_\_\_\_ reality and not just an external, \_\_\_\_\_ reality. The change that Jesus offers us is so \_\_\_\_\_, so profound that Scripture likens it to rebirth—to becoming a \_\_\_\_\_ person.

“God saved us because of His mercy and not because of any good things that we have done. He washed us by the power of the Holy Spirit. He gave us new birth and a fresh beginning.” (Titus 3:5)

“Anyone who belongs to Christ becomes a new person. The past is forgotten and everything is new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

The minute we come to Christ, we’re a new \_\_\_\_\_—everything old has passed away.

We walk this spiritual reality out in partnership with the \_\_\_\_\_.

“Sin’s power over us was broken when we became Christians and were baptized to become a part of Jesus Christ. Through His death the power of your sinful nature was shattered. And when God, the Father, with glorious power, brought Him back to life again, you were given His wonderful new life to enjoy!” (Romans 6:3-4)

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Far more than just an instrument of death, the Cross was God’s answer to our biggest problem: \_\_\_\_\_.

A Christian world view holds that the moment Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, sin entered the world, and we’ve been not only living with the \_\_\_\_\_ ever since, but contributing to them. However, Scripture also tells us that at the exact same moment, God, in His infinite love and mercy, began a process to save and \_\_\_\_\_ us—a process that culminated in the cross that first Good Friday.

The cross isn’t a \_\_\_\_\_ or a band-aid solution like the world offers, but rather goes to the very \_\_\_\_\_ of the problem.

Through the cross, God offers to change and \_\_\_\_\_ us from the inside out. He offers us nothing less than a new \_\_\_\_\_ and a new life.

**“Adam failed, Jesus nailed, Grace prevailed.”**

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**How will you respond this morning?**

**How will you boast and glory in the cross?**

