

## Third Study

### “The Cross of Christ”

The cross of Christ is the reason we have this fellowship. Without the cross, we would have no church, no salvation, and no hope! We are saved by grace and that grace comes to us by the way of the cross.

Understanding what happened there is crucial to our understanding this grace – and the life we have in Christ. **Questions:**

What is your understanding of the cross right now? What happened and why? How do you feel about it? Take a look at what the Bible has to say about the cross, and the impact it made.

**Matthew 26: 36-46** In the garden of Gethsemane. Sorrowful and troubled. Overwhelmed with sorrow! Falls to the ground. Clearly Jesus does not want to die! Submits to God’s will over his own. Friends are not there for him emotionally. Sleeping! (how would you feel?) Jesus beginning to feel alone. His friends were pulling away from him. God was still there!

**26:47-56** Jesus arrested – does not fight it. V53: had the power and authority to set himself free! Continues to submit to God’s will over his own. Continues to trust in God’s plan. All the disciples fled! Jesus not only feels alone, he is alone. God was still there.

**26:57-68** Trumped up charges! **The abuse begins with emotional pain.** Jesus is humiliated, spat upon, mocked, beat up.

**26:69-75** Peter follows in the background. Confronted 3 times. Denies his faith and his Lord. He lacked the courage to take a stand for Jesus. His fears overtook him. (Lk 22:61 Jesus looked right at him!) How would you have felt if you were Jesus? Peter?

**27: 11-26** Pilate wanted nothing to do with the cross! He knew Jesus was innocent of the charges. He wanted to wash his hands of the whole thing. His indecision WAS a decision. We can’t remove ourselves from the cross. We all have a part in it.

**27:27-44** **The physical pain** (read medical account) more than we can imagine! Jesus was still trusting in, and submitting to God’s will.

**27:47-50** **The spiritual pain** 3 hrs. of darkness, why? 1Jn 1:5-6 God is all light, sin is darkness. V46 Jesus now doubting / questioning / lashing out! (Ps. 22) Why? **1Pe 2:21-24:** No threats! Trusted God was with him! V24: took on all of OUR sins. **2 Co 5:21:** BECAME sin for us! **Mt.27: 47-50** **The darkness was God turning his back on Jesus BECAUSE of our sin! God does not have a relationship with sin. There is no greater act of love for us.** (Jn 15:13 Jesus laid everything down)

**John 21:15-17** After the crucifixion, Jesus asks Peter, “Do you truly love me?” Peter at one time turned away from the cross, Jesus call him to now turn toward it. What about you?

Do you truly love Jesus? Are you ready to turn toward the cross?