

The Cross: The Center of History **- Ron Stullenbarger -**

The Cross of Jesus Christ is the center-point of all history. It is the pivot of man's existence on earth.

In Old Testament times, all of God's dealings with man pointed him to the Cross that was to come. His salvation was through faith in what God promised would happen.

Today we look back to that time, over 2,000 years ago, when the Son of God hung on the Cross between heaven and earth, between God and man, and receive salvation through faith in the finished work of Christ on the Cross.

The apostle Paul writes, in Romans 3:21-26, *"But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."*

In Galatians 3:26-27 Paul tells us when we were saved by faith. *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."*

From the moment the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, sinned (see Genesis 3), God's plan of redemption was set into motion and Jesus was foreordained to die. He was *"the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world"* (Revelation 13:8).

On the Passover, the killing of the lamb and the placing of its blood on the doorposts of the house so that the Angel of Death would *"pass over"* them (Exodus 12:1-33) all painted a picture of what Christ would do on the Cross for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7 refers to Christ as *"our Passover Lamb."*

From the time of the Early Church until today we are reaping the benefits of the Cross. We look back and by faith receive all that was accomplished for us there.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 tells us that every time we break the bread and drink the Cup of Communion together, we do it in REMEMBRANCE of Him -- of His body and shed blood on the Cross -- until He comes again!

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