

## WHAT DOES THE CROSS MEAN?

### Luke 23:33-46

**Introduction:** On the cross Jesus did something that was necessary for man's liberation from sin. On the cross Jesus did something that brought God and man together. On the cross Jesus did something that came to an END.

#### I. WHAT DID THE CROSS MEAN TO THE WORLD THEN?

1. To the Roman Government: It was the cruelest, most horrible, slowest manner of death and was used as a deterrent to crime.
2. To the Populus, the People: It was a means of entertainment, a spectacle and a hateful reminder of Rome's rule.
3. To the Religious Officials: It was a way to rid themselves of Jesus.
4. To the Disciples: It was the loss of a friend, the end of a dream. Their hopes dashed and a time of confusion and fear.

#### II. WHAT DID THE CROSS MEAN TO THE HEAVENLIES (THE SPIRITUAL WORLD)?

1. To God, the Father: It was the temporary loss of His Son.
  - The way was cleared to save man without violating His own justice.
  - The way was cleared to reconcile man to Himself.
  - The way was cleared to be able to forgive man.
  - The hold of sin on man was broken.
  - Evil principalities and powers were defeated.
2. To Jesus: It was pain, agony, suffering, shame, humiliation and the climax for what He came to do in the first place.
  - He paid the total price of sin for the entire human race.
  - He suffered the penalties for mankind's sin.
  - He became man's substitute sacrifice.
  - He took man's place before God's wrath.
  - He brought God and man together.
3. To Satan: It was VICTORY! He thought.
  - At last, finally he was only a step away from taking God's throne away from Him.

#### III. WHAT DOES THE CROSS MEAN TODAY?

1. To Satan: His defeat. He lost his bid for God's throne, his hold on man.
  - His time is short and he will be cast into the lake of Fire.

2. To The World: It is only a symbol of another of many religions.
  - A charm, an ear ring, a necklace.
  - A stupid, foolish and even sickening thought.
  
3. To Believers:
  - Atonement
  - Redemption
  - Forgiveness
  - Cleansing
  - Peace
  - Mediator
  - Salvation
  - God's Love Revealed
  - Jesus' Substituting for Us
  - Sacrifice for Us
  - Acceptance by God
  - Heirship to God's Wealth
  - Eternal Life
  - Countless and even Unknown Blessings
  
4. To the Heavlies: IT IS FINISHED!

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Where is the Cross in your life?
2. God makes no special deals. Everyone must come to the Cross, look up, accept, and believe on the one who hung there - Jesus.
3. Is your commitment to the Cross authentic?
4. Does the Cross belong to you?
5. If not then YOU are an enemy of the Cross. If not for it then you are against it. There is no middle ground concerning the Cross.