

THE GRACE OF THE CROSS

(I John 3:19)

- Introduction:
1. The highest and most noble appeal one can offer to convince one to obey the gospel is the cross of Christ (Luke 14:23).
 2. When one learns just what Christ did for them, it compels them to return that love.
 3. (II Corinthians 5:14) The love of Christ compels us.
 4. (Philippians 2:5-8).
 5. In this lesson, we want examine some of the suffering Christ endured so that you may have life everlasting.

I. THE HUMILITY OF THE CROSS

- A. The humility of the cross.
1. (Philippians 2:8).
 2. The mockery He endured (Matthew 27:28-31).
 - a. It is one thing for a weak man to endure mockery, but it is quite another for a strong man to endure the same.
 - b. (John 18:6; Matthew 26:53).
 3. The humiliation He endured (Matthew 27:31).
 - a. Just a few days earlier, he entered Jerusalem as a King (Matthew 21), but now He is leaving Jerusalem as an imposter.

II. THE SUFFERINGS OF THE CROSS

- A. His suffering in the garden (Luke 22:44).
B. Jesus was scourged (Matthew 27:26).
C. Struck His head with a reed (Matthew 27:30).
D. They literally pulled his beard from His face (Isaiah 50:6; 52:14).
E. He was forced to carry His own cross (Luke 23:26).
F. His hands & feet were nailed to the cross (Matthew 27:37).
G. The asphyxiation of the cross (John 19:31).

III. THE PURPOSE OF THE CROSS

- A. (II Corinthians 5:21) "***He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***"
B. Relate the account of Francis Gojobnichick & Maximillian Colb.
 1. From time to time, you hear of a story that tells ***the*** story, and such is the case coming from the prison camp (owl-swichz).
- C. I can understand why Paul said, "***God forbid that I should glory, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world***" (Galatians 6:14).

- Conclusion:
1. What have you done in response to God's great gift to you?
 2. Respond in loving obedience and appreciation.