

## THE CROSS OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 2:1-2 “When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

A mother of three children was asked, “Which of your three children do you love the most?” She replied, “I love all of them equally.” After being challenged about how it was possible to love each child exactly the same, she qualified her answer, “When one of my three children is sick, I love that child more at that moment. When one of my children is in pain, lost or needs comfort I love that child more at that moment. When one of my children is confused, I love that child more. (Adapted from article by Steven Cole, a retired pastor)

This is illustrative of the sacrifice Jesus gave on Calvary’s cross for the forgiveness of all human sin. God loved all human beings of every race, tribe and nation equally. He sent His Son Jesus to suffer and die for their sin. The cross you wear, the one that hangs on the wall of your home, the cross that is prominent in your church witnesses to you the all-encompassing love of God for you and all sinners. At the same time, the cross you wear, the one that hangs on the wall of your home, the cross that is prominent in your church witnesses to you that Jesus paid the ransom price for the particular and specific sins you commit and are unique to your life.

The cross is God’s message to you of His personal forgiveness of your individual sins. Christ died for all. Christ died for you. As the mother loved each of her children equally so does God love each person equally. As the mother loved each of her three children in special ways to meet their special needs, so God through Jesus loves you to meet your special, unique, individual needs.

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but you know that it was God’s instrument upon which His Son died to take upon Himself, in your place, God’s punishment of your sins. (1 Corinthians 1:18) Be comforted in knowing, “your sinful nature was crucified with Jesus on Calvary’s cross in order that all the sins you commit might be brought to nothing and you will no longer be enslaved to them. For you died with Him through your baptism and have been

set free from God's punishment of your sins. Now since you have died with Christ through your baptism, you will also live with Him for all eternity." (Romans 6:6-8)

Prayer: O Lord Jesus, hold before my eyes Your cross to assure me that though my sins are great Your crucifixion is even greater for my total and complete forgiveness. In Your name I pray. Amen.

In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.  
(LSB 427)