

Do you have a low tolerance for blood and gore? Do you faint at the sight of blood? How often do you think about the bloody crime scene at the cross? Why should every believer regularly think about the cross of Christ?

Read 1 Cor. 1:18. Talking about the cross is described as foolishness to certain people. Who would you consider talking to about the cross as foolish? Do you ever feel like we talk about the cross too much? Do you ever think the preacher should talk about more 'relevant' topics? When you hear a preacher preaching about the cross do you think he is only talking to unbelievers who need to be saved?

1 Cor. 1:18 describes the powerful affect the "word of the cross" has on people who are being saved. What power does the preaching of the cross have to believers?

Three Dimensions of a Cross-Centered Life

- The cross was something done for me.
- The cross was something done by me.
- The cross is something done to me.

Which dimension produces the most gratitude? How and Why?

Which dimension produces the most joy? How and Why?

Which dimension produces the most humility? How and Why?

Which dimension produces the most worship? How and Why?

Which dimension produces the most obedience? How and Why?

Which dimension produces the most power over temptation? How and Why?

1) Feel the weight of sin's penalty. (27-31)

Read Romans 6:23. What is the penalty for sin?

How did your sins empower the acts of the Roman soldiers? If you had been there, would you have tried to prevent Jesus' unjust death? Do you realize the sin you commit today empowered the torture Jesus endured two-thousand years ago? How does that thought inform your choice in regard to your next temptation to sin?

2) Carry the weight of your cross. (32-37)

Read Luke 9:23 & Matthew 10:38. Simon literally felt the weight of the cross. What does taking up your cross look like for you in the coming week?

How would your life be different if you felt the heaviness of the cross? What priorities would change?

3) Consider the weight of your destination. (38-44)

Three groups of people watched Jesus die without acknowledging him as their King. (The religious leaders, the passers-by, and the thieves) It proves that information about the death of Jesus is not enough.

Read Luke 23:39-44. One of the thieves changed his mind about Jesus in his final moments. How do the following three statements display the power of the cross?

- It's never too late.
- You're never too bad.
- Jesus is never too busy.

Additional Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 2:2
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- Isa 53:1-12