**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Cross |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 Peter 3:18 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1779 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Sin was the reason for the cross.
      1. In the media, we hear of arson, pillage, war, pornography, and disaster, but we never hear the word sin.
   2. Life is short; death is sure.
   3. Sin is the curse; Christ is the cure.
      1. How does He cure?
         1. He cures through the cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
   4. 1 Peter 3:18
      1. There is enough Gospel dynamite in this one verse to blow the sin, the hatred, the sorrow, and the sickness out of anybody’s life.
         1. But that dynamite must be ignited by the spark of faith.
   5. Sin is a clenched fist in the face of God.
      1. Only God can forgive sin.
   6. God is a holy God; and sin is an affront, a reproach, and a rebellion against Him.
      1. Sin must be dealt with.
   7. Today’s message points out three wonderful truths about how God forgives sin and how God deals with sin.
2. the vicarious suffering of the cross (1 peter 3:18)
   1. The word “vicarious” means “in the place of another” or “substitutionary.”
   2. 1 Peter 3:18
      1. The “just” in this passage is Jesus.
         1. Jesus never sinned.
         2. He is the virgin-born, sinless, and spotless Son of God.
      2. We are the unjust.
         1. Jesus became our substitute.
   3. All through the Bible, God has taught the lesson of substitution.
   4. The first day of Passover is also Palm Sunday.
      1. This is not by happenstance.
      2. What is Passover?
         1. Exodus 12:1-14
         2. In the Old Testament, God gave a prophecy and a picture of the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.
            1. He instituted the ritual of the Passover lamb.
         3. There was judgment upon the land because of sin.
         4. God told His people to take a spotless lamb without blemish.
            1. They were to kill the lamb; the blood was to be shed.
         5. They were to take the blood of the lamb and put it upon the doorpost of their house, not on the inside but on the outside.
            1. This was to be done openly, publicly, and unashamedly.
            2. The blood was to be upon the lintel and upon the side posts.

This was the sign of the cross.

This was a picture and a prophecy of the blood of Jesus Christ.

* + - 1. When God saw the blood, He would pass over them.
         1. That is how we got the word “Passover.”
         2. If the blood was put beneath your feet and you passed over the blood, then God would not pass over you.
         3. When you put yourself under the blood, the death angel (the judgment of Almighty God) would pass over you.
      2. The Passover lamb is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
         1. 1 Peter 1:18-19
         2. Jesus is the Passover lamb.

He is the lamb without blemish and without spot.

* + 1. Jesus Christ would die at Mt. Moriah.
       1. This is the same place where Abraham offered up his only begotten son, Isaac.
          1. Genesis 22:1-14
       2. This is the same place where the temple was built.
    2. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, not many miles away from Mt. Moriah.
       1. By the time of Christ, the priests and the Levites had instructed a special rank of shepherds to grow very special lambs, Passover lambs.
          1. These were the finest and the best lambs.
          2. They were grown in Bethlehem.
    3. On Passover week, the lambs would come from the fields of Boaz at Bethlehem and go up to the Temple Mount through the sheep gate.
       1. There, they would be examined by the high priest and by the Levites.
       2. On the same day, the Lord Jesus (God’s lamb) came down from the Mt. of Olives, riding upon a donkey, as He went up to Mt. Moriah.
          1. The lambs and God’s lamb entered into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.
    4. The priests examined the Passover lambs.
       1. They looked inside the mouth.
       2. They went through the fleece.
       3. They would examine the hooves, the eyes, and even the eyelids.
          1. If there was any flaw, then that lamb would not be worthy.

He had to be a special lamb; a lamb without spot or blemish.

* + 1. There was another lamb born in Bethlehem; Mary had a little lamb.
       1. His fleece was white as snow.
          1. He never knew sin.
          2. He was the virgin-born Son of God.
          3. God’s sinless lamb.
       2. He was the lamb Abraham spoke about on Mt. Moriah.
          1. Genesis 22:8

Not a lamb for Himself.

He, Himself would be the lamb.

* + 1. Much of the Gospels are given over to the last week of Jesus’ life because it was the climax of it all.
       1. It was there in that last week that Jesus was examined.
          1. He was examined by the Pharisees.
          2. He was examined by the Sadducees.
          3. He was examined by the Herodians.
          4. He was examined by the civil leaders.

They found no fault in Him.

John 7:46

Jesus could look all of them in the eye and say, “Which of you convicts me of sin?”

John 8:46

* + 1. Then came the day when the Passover lambs were slain.
       1. At 3:00 PM, the priest would sacrifice the spotless lambs.
       2. At the same time on Golgotha, God’s lamb poured out His blood for the sin of mankind.
          1. Jesus said from the cross, “It is finished.”

John 19:30

It was paid in full.

The job of the priests, Levites, and shepherds was finished.

Jesus, God’s lamb, died upon that cross.

The purpose of the cross was substitution.

* 1. When the Lord Jesus Christ died, He fulfilled another Old Testament symbolism.
     1. The high priest would take a goat called “the scapegoat.”
        1. He would lay his hand upon the head of the goat and confess the sins of the people.
        2. The goat would be led outside the city wall and killed.
           1. His blood would be shed.
           2. This is the reason the Bible tells us that Jesus died outside of the city.
     2. Jesus is our scapegoat.
        1. Our sins were laid upon Him.
           1. He carried those sins to the cross, and in agony He died.
        2. Pilate didn’t want to crucify the Lord Jesus, but Pilate was a fence-straddling politician; whatever buttered his bread determined his conduct.
           1. The people were clamoring for the blood of Jesus.
           2. There was another prisoner named Barabbas.

He was a thief, murderer, and an insurrectionist.

* + - * 1. According to tradition, a prisoner would be released to the people.
        2. Pilate let them choose whom they would pardon: Barabbas or Jesus.

They chose Barabbas.

They said to let Jesus be crucified.

This was the same fickle crowd that on Palm Sunday was saying, “Hail Him.”

John 12:13

* + - 1. Jesus died in Barabbas’ place.
         1. There were three crosses.

The middle cross was made for Barabbas.

* + - * 1. Jesus was crucified on that cross instead of Barabbas.

We don’t know if Barabbas was ever saved, but God arranged a perfect picture of substitution.

1 Peter 3:18

* 1. “Christ also hath suffered for sin.”
     1. 1 Peter 3:18
     2. Tongue cannot tell, throat cannot sing, and hand cannot paint the tragedy that was called Calvary and the suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ.
     3. There was the emotional suffering of Christ.
        1. Matthew 26:38
        2. Luke 22:44
           1. He was in such agony that the minute capillaries ruptured and broke down.
     4. There was the bodily suffering of the Lord Jesus.
        1. They scourged the Lord Jesus.
           1. In a scourging, the victim’s hands would be tied, and he would be hoisted up until he was on the balls of his feet to increase the pain.
           2. The scourging instrument was a whip with a sturdy handle and leather thongs.

On the ends of the thongs were bits of bone, metal, and glass.

* + - * 1. There would be two scourgers.

One would start at the nape of the neck and work downward.

The other would start at the ankles and work upward.

* + - * 1. No one walked away from a scourging; they crawled away.

That is why the Bible says that they brought Him to the judgment hall.

He was too weak to walk.

You can understand why Jesus later stumbled and fell beneath the cross.

* + - 1. They battered Him with their fists.
      2. They beat Him with clubs.
      3. Then, they took Him out for the actual crucifixion.
         1. Crucifixion was meant to be cruel.

It was meant to inspire stark terror.

* + - * 1. The word “excruciating” comes from a Latin word that literally means “out of the cross.”

Our word “excruciating” comes from “crucifixion.”

* + - * 1. They would nail the victim’s hands to the cross.

They would drive the nails through the nerves.

* + - * 1. They would nail the victim’s feet to the cross.
        2. The weight of the body would come down upon the chest, and the person who was crucified would gasp for breath.

In order to breathe, he had to lift himself up.

In order to lift himself, he had to push down on the nails in his feet.

He would be between gasping for breath and searing pain.

* + - * 1. There was nausea, shock, and searing pain as every nerve in the body became a pathway for the pain.
    1. Not only did Jesus Christ drink the cup (the pollution of sin), but He also wore the crown (the penalty of sin).
       1. Jesus never sinned; He was the just for the unjust.
       2. Jesus paid the price.
          1. The price was separation from Almighty God.
          2. Not only would God the Father be separated from Him, but for that moment Jesus would become the object of the Father’s loathing.

God the Father looked upon Him as God the Father would look upon a sinner.

God the Father dealt with Jesus as He would deal with a sinner.

* + - * 1. 1 Peter 3:18

1. the vital satisfaction of the cross (1 peter 3:18)
   1. 1 Peter 3:18
      1. The word “once” here does not mean once upon a time.
         1. It means once for all.
   2. When Jesus said that it was finished, He meant that the debt had been paid.
      1. John 19:30
      2. In Rome when a man had been found guilty of a crime, he would be put in prison, and a certificate of debt would be written.
         1. This told of his debt to the state and to society and what his crime had incurred.
            1. It would be placed on his prison door.
         2. After he had paid the penalty and satisfied the demands of the law, they would write across the certificate of debt, “Paid in full,” and give it to him.
            1. This meant that “it was finished.”

The man would not have to go back to prison again.

He would never come into double jeopardy.

He could not be charged with the same crime twice.

* + 1. Jesus has once suffered for sin.
       1. 1 Peter 3:18
       2. What blasphemy to say that again there needs to be another sacrifice for sin.
  1. Hebrews 10:12-14
     1. This is why we can believe in eternal security.
     2. After you are saved, you cannot lose your salvation.
        1. But suppose you could get lost after you got saved.
           1. For you to be saved again, Jesus would have to die again.
     3. When Jesus died, it was good for one salvation only.
        1. It is done; it is paid in full.
           1. There is nothing you can do, and there is nothing you need to do.
  2. Isaiah 53:11
     1. God is satisfied with what Jesus did on the cross.
        1. The sin debt is paid.

1. the victorious salvation of the cross (1 peter 3:18)
   1. 1 Peter 3:18
      1. “That He might bring us to God.”
         1. Sin separates us from a holy God.
         2. On the cross, Jesus took holy God with one hand and sinful man with the other hand.
            1. He has reconciled God and man.
            2. He has made peace by the blood of His cross.

Romans 5:10

* + 1. In this verse, the word “bring” in the Greek language means to take an individual and present him to a king or a dignitary.
       1. That is what Jesus has done.
          1. Jesus has taken us by the hand to present us to God the Father.
          2. He brings us to God.

He says, “Father, these are mine. I purchased them with my blood on that cross.”

* 1. King David, in the Old Testament, had a son named Absalom.
     1. Absalom rebelled against David.
     2. There was a woman in the kingdom who told David that he needed to reconcile with his son, but David did not do it.
        1. She said that David was not acting like God.
        2. 2 Samuel 14:14
           1. This is a great Gospel text in the Old Testament.
           2. God has a way of bringing us back.
  2. God devised a means that His banished be not separated from Him.
     1. Jesus died for you on that cross.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. God will save you.
      1. He “suffered the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.”
         1. 1 Peter 3:18
   2. God is satisfied by what Jesus did on that cross, and now you must receive it.
   3. What should you do today?
      1. Put your faith where God has put your sins: on the Lord Jesus Christ.
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16