Intro: “As evangelical ___________ becomes secularized, its interests have been ___________ with those of the culture. The result is a loss of absolute values, permissive individualism, and a substitution of wholeness for holiness, recovery for repentance, intuition for truth, feeling for belief, chance for providence, and immediate gratification for enduring hope. ___________ and His cross have been ___________ from the center of our vision.”

A. If faith in Christ and His substitutionary work upon the cross is not preached, then the gospel message ___________ ___________ been presented.

B. The ___________ of the Bible, and He alone has fully and completely accomplished the necessary work of salvation. No merit on the part of man, nor on the part of saints, nor works accomplished by man here or elsewhere can add to His work. His work alone is the total and complete work by which we are justified before God! “We reaffirm that our salvation is ___________ by the mediatorial work of the historical Christ alone. His sinless life and substitutionary atonement alone are sufficient for our justification and reconciliation to the Father” (Cambridge Declaration).

Acts 4:8-12 & Romans 5:6-11

I. It is imperative that we keep ___________ and the cross at the ___________ of the church, at the center of our view, our thoughts, priorities, efforts, and preaching and teaching. For even though the word of the ___________ is foolishness to those who are perishing, to us who are being saved it is the ___________ of God. (Cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18)

A. The ___________ of the Cross of Christ.

1. When we speak of the satisfaction of the cross of Christ, we speak of His or satisfying our sin ___________ by suffering the cross.

a. Webster defines satisfaction as: 1b: reparation for sin that meets the demands of divine ___________.

2. The Bible says, “For ______ have sinned and ________ short of the glory of God” (Ro. 3:23). And, “there are _________ righteous, not even one” (Ro. 3:10).

3. Psalm 37:28 says, “For the LORD loves ___________, ...” And, Isaiah 30:18 says, “... For the LORD is a God of __________; ...” Also, in Isaiah 61:8 the Lord declares, “For I, the LORD, ___________ justice, ...”

a. There is a penalty for sin for God is just. II Thessalonians 1:8-9 speaks of God “dealing out retribution to those who do not know [Him] and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the ___________ of eternal ___________, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ...”

4. Luther wrote, “Since all of us, born in sin and God's enemies, have earned nothing but eternal wrath and hell so that everything we are and can do is damned, and there is no hope or way of getting out of this predicament ... therefore another man had to step into our place, namely Jesus ___________, God and man, and had to render satisfaction and ___________ for sin through his suffering and death.”

a. 1 Peter 1:18-19, “knowing that you were not ___________ with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with
blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the ____________ of Christ.

b. Romans 6:23, For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal through Jesus ____________ our Lord!

5. Christ Alone ____________ our sin debt by His work on the cross. No other could do it; no other has done it; no other but Christ and ____________ ____________!

B. The ____________ of the Cross of Christ.
   1. When we speak of the sacrifice of the cross we are addressing that which the ____________ of God away from us.
      a. A problem with sin is that it not only leaves us owing a debt we cannot pay, but facing an ____________ God we are ____________ to appease!
   2. Not only did the work Christ upon the cross satisfy our sin debt, but it also the wrath of God. God is no longer going to pour out His ____________ upon those who believe for Christ Alone paid the only ____________ that could appease the Holy God.
      a. Romans 3:25 (NIV), “God presented him as a sacrifice of ____________, through faith in his blood.”
      b. I John 2:2, “and He Himself is the propitiation (or ____________ ____________) for our sins; ...” And, 4:10, “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the ____________ (or atoning sacrifice) for our sins.”
   3. Jesus ____________ Alone is the One through whom we are reconciled with God for in the light of the great offense of our sin and the subsequent wrath due our sin His great sacrifice upon the cross is the only sacrifice that ____________ God.

C. The ____________ of the Cross of Christ.
   1. When we speak of substitution, there is a negative and a positive side. The negative side of substitution is that our sins were laid on Christ. The positive side of substitution is that Christ's righteousness is ____________ or imputed ____________ _____________. Therefore, when we speak of substitution we also speak of the mediatorial work of ____________.
      a. 1 Peter 3:18 says, “For ____________ also died for sins once for all, the just the ____________, in order that He might bring us to God, ...”
      b. 1 Timothy 2:5-6 agrees with this saying, “For there is one God, and ____________ also between God and men, the man Christ ____________, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, ...”
      c. 2 Corinthians 5:21, “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that might ____________ the ____________ of God in Him.”
   1. In Christ we become the very righteousness of God! It is through His substitutionary work on our behalf. Because ______ _______ _______ ______, we bear His righteousness!
      Christ Alone is our ____________ for there is no other name by which we can saved - for His name is the name by which we ____________ be saved!