



HCF Core Values

The Cross – Part 1

The Cross - We value the *cross of Jesus Christ*. Christ's atoning sacrifice is the most important event in the history of creation. The cross was the fulfillment of Christ's work as our High Priest and the full payment for the redemption of mankind from his sins. The cross is central to the attitude of Christian living and the supreme example of God's love to mankind. If there ever was an act of divine wonder to worship and glory in, it is the cross of Jesus Christ!

We value the cross of Jesus Christ. Christ's atoning sacrifice is the most important event in the history of creation. – We have stated many times that the chief end for which God created the universe was to manifest His Glory. God does the through the means of creation, providence, sin and redemption. That God in all His purposes and governed by His mighty Providence, is bringing to pass all that He has planned to do.

Isaiah 46:9-11 - 9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, **'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'**; 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. **I have planned it, surely I will do it.** NASB

The history of creation and mankind is the outworking of the PLAN of God. We see then that all of the events of human history are being orchestrated by the Providence of God, following the *“predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God.”* In fact, the murder of Jesus and the events surrounding His death, were all carefully planned by God.

Acts 2:22-24 - 22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know — 23 this Man, **delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God,** you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 "And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. NASB

In fact, the Scripture affirms that this *“sacrifice”* of the *“lamb of God”* was something that God has planned from all eternity. Consider it, God had planned the cross of Jesus from before time began.

1 Peter 1:18-21 - 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, **the blood of Christ. 20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world,** but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you 21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. NASB

THE CROSS....Is this not the reason that Jesus was to come into the world? Wasn't it announced in the Garden of Eden, immediately after the fall of man in Genesis 3:15 some 4000 years before it happened?

Genesis 3:15 - 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and **her seed; He shall bruise you on the head**, And you shall bruise him on the heel. NASB

THE CROSS....Was it not shadowed again and again in the Old Testament in various ceremonies rituals carried out by God's Holy people? Wasn't represented again and again in the lives of God's saints throughout the ages....for example Abraham....did not God say to Abraham.....

Genesis 22:2 - 2 And He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac , and go to the land of Moriah; and **offer him there as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains of which I will tell you." NASB

THE CROSS....Is this not the reason that Jesus has come? Was it not announced by the prophets? Is not the entire account of the Old Testament written about Jesus Christ and His coming? Didn't his arrival come by the announcement of the angel of the Lord.....

Matthew 1:20-24 - 20 But when he had considered this, **behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream**, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21 "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus , for it is He who will save His people from their sins."** 22 Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." NASB

THE CROSS....Friends, all these things have happened by the express will and purpose of God to redeem the fallen creation from its state of bondage and decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God. It all happened by the predestination of God, by His hand and by His purpose!

Acts 4:27-28 - 27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Thy holy servant Jesus, whom Thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 **to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur**. NASB

Think about it friends....was the cross "PLAN B?" Did God create man in the garden and then man fell into sin, so God scratched his head and tried to figure out some way to get mankind out of pinch? Not hardly.....God planned it from all eternity.....the universe, the world, mankind, the fall, THE CROSS.....the resurrection, redemption, the church, the great tribulation, the lake of fire, His glorious heaven, it is all happening according to the predetermined PLAN of God!

THE CROSS....You could say that the reason God made the world was so that Jesus could come and die on the cross! It is these events by which God is "**reconciling the world to Himself!**"

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 - 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, **that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself**, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. NASB

Colossians 1:19-20 - 19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him, 20 and **through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross**; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. NASB

In fact, the event of the cross of Jesus Christ is the focal point of all of human history. It is the most important event that has ever happened or will ever happen in history. In fact, it is the focal point of the great rejoicing and reverent worship in Heaven itself.....

Revelation 5:8-14 - 8 And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take

the book, and to break its seals; **for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 "And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."** 11 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." **13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,** "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." 14 And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped. NASB

We value the CROSS.....It is in the cross of Jesus Christ that we see the attributes of God with great clarity. This is why the cross is called "the blazing center of the Glory of God." It is because when we look at the cross, we see God.....Eternal God, Unchanging, Mysterious, Almighty God....nailed to a tree! What a wonder! What a marvel! What a Savior!

At the CROSS we see God's **PEACE**.....we were enemies of God, Jesus is our peace!
Romans 5:1-2 - 5:1 Therefore having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,** 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. NASB

At the CROSS we see God's **MERCY**.....we were helpless, the Lord is our Helper!
Titus 3:4-7 - 4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, **but according to His mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. NASB

At the CROSS we see God's **JUSTICE and RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Romans 3:21-27 - 21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ** for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. **This was to demonstrate His righteousness,** because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26 **for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just** and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. NASB

At the CROSS we see God's **GRACE**.....

2 Timothy 1:8-11 -8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, **but according to His own purpose and grace** which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, NASB

At the CROSS we see God's **LOVE**.....

1 John 4:10 - 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, **but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** NASB

We value the CROSS.....it was on the cross that Lamb was slain. It was on the cross that Jesus took our sins and bore them in His body. It was on the cross that Law was fulfilled. It was on the cross that we were saved from the wrath of God and granted eternal life. It was on the cross that Jesus DIED.....