



# The Cross

## Introduction

Today I want to share with you why I am so thankful for the Cross of Calvary, what makes the Cross such a terrible scene of pain, hurt, humiliation and defeat, so the world thought – why is the Cross of Calvary such a huge victory for you and me today.

Today, I want to give you a clearer understanding of what Jesus Christ did for you and me when He died on the Cross of Calvary and somehow to change your perception of Calvary, because at Calvary everything changed.

## The Law

Before Calvary, the Israelites from the time of Moses, had to make sacrifice of doves, goats, sheep, and cattle to regularly sacrifice on the altar to pay for their redemption from their sin.

We read in Leviticus 16, that once a year at the Day of Atonement the High priest would take a bulls for a sin offering for himself and a ram for a burnt offering. He was to wash himself and put on the linen tunic and then the priestly garments.

Then on the Israelites would supply two goats for a sin offering. The high priest would take two goats and present them before the Lord at the entrance to the tent of meeting. The High Priest will then cast lots, one lot for the Lord and one goat chosen by lot would be the scapegoat.

The High priest will take the goat chosen for the Lord and would present before the Lord as a sin offering to make atonement for the nation of Israel.

The other goat would be presented alive before the Lord to make atonement.

This goat known as the scapegoat, would be led out into the wilderness by one of the priests and let go in the wilderness, never to be seen again thus representing their sins were atoned for and never seen again.

The other goat chosen for the Lord would be slaughtered, and its blood would be captured in a bowl and the body sacrificed on the altar.

Then the High priest would take censer filled with coals from the altar and some incense for the altar before the Holy of Holies and the fragrance would fill the temple and he would go behind the curtain the veil and place the blood of the goat on the mercy seat between the wings of the two cherubs on the lid of the Arc of the Covenant and there by presenting the blood to pay for the nation of Israel's sin for another year.

This would happen every year and only once in the entire year was the High priest ever to go behind the curtain / veil, only the High priest anyone else or if the High Priest went behind the curtain any other time he would be stuck down dead.

So, why was this necessary because God was showing Israel a picture of what was to come. This annual sacrifice was able to atone for the sin of Israel, but it was deficient because it had to be repeated annually and there constantly other sacrifices and rituals that had to be performed to be "right" with God.



The reason for this is found in **1 Corinthians 15:56** *"<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law."*

The law, the 10 commandments and the other Levitical laws, there were 613 in total show us what sin is, and so the power of the Law was that it showed us what sin is, but the power of the sin is death or separation with God.

So, these sacrifices could not meet the just requirements of the Law because no animal was able to pay the just price for sin because our sin constantly separates us from God, all the rituals and sacrifices were pointing to a day when the One, the Messiah, the Anointed one would come and deal once and for all time with SIN.

## Jesus Christ the perfect sacrifice

This is why we need Jesus Christ to come to this world. God became man, Immanuel – God with us. God the Son, was born of a virgin woman by the seed of God, the Spirit became flesh, why because *"God is a Spirit and we that worship Him, must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth"* – **John 4:24**.

in order for a spirit to walk around on earth, it needs a body. You and I are a body, with a soul and spirit, when your body dies, the soul and the spirit go back to GOD why because without a body your soul and spirit cannot walk on earth.

So, Jesus Christ had to have a body to be man and walk this earth so that he could be tempted in every way that a man or woman could be tempted but remain without sin and therefore be the ultimate sacrifice for the Sin of the entire human race, Jesus Christ could be the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the entire world.

## Calvary

Calvary was not a pretty place or picture, it was filled with pain, horror, humiliation because that is what the Romans did when they crucified a person, they tried to inflict as much pain and suffering as possible.

People were beaten terribly, they were whipped and stripped naked and hung on a cross to humiliate them, to inflict as much pain and suffering as possible.

Sometimes crucifixion could take multiple days for the person to eventually die and eventually the soldiers would get tired of waiting and they would take the shaft of their spear and repeatedly hit the persons shins till they broke and then that person would suffocate and die.

So, calvary was not a pretty sight like we see in so many paintings and drawings it was extremely gory and particular Jesus Christ's crucifixion was really brutal, **Isaiah 52:14** *"<sup>14</sup> Just as there were many who were appalled at him - His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and His form marred beyond human likeness"*

It Jesus did it for you.

At the Cross, Jesus Christ our Sacrificial Lamb was sacrificed for the sin of the entire human race, every person alive today has their sin debt paid at the Cross of Calvary! Once and for all time SIN was defeated and because sin was defeated the just requirements of Law we met and death lost its powers and that is why we say that Jesus Christ overcame Death, Hell, and the grave.



Your sin, my sin the entire worlds sin is paid, however, it is a free gift from God – **John 3:16** *"16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

A gift must be received to have the benefit of the gift, in other word if I gave you 10 million kwacha it will have no effect in your life if you do not receive the gift and spend it, the same with Salvation.

You can say I have 10 million kwacha, I can buy new cloths and house, a car, this, and that but until you actually take the gift, receive it as your own it will have no effect in your life.

The same is true about Jesus Christ payment for sin. He paid for your sin, it is a free gift but unless you receive the gift and make it your own, it will have no effect in your life.

Yes you can say I know Jesus, I have my sins forgiven but it is laying waiting for you to receive it.

Many people here today, you know that Jesus Christ is God's Son, you know that He died for your sin, you know you must receive forgiveness, in fact you believe there is One God, it is good and it is true but you are like the devil and his angels that believe in God and Jesus Christ but according to **James 2:19** *"19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder."*

We need to do what we believe, we need to receive Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, we need to accept and received for our self, His sacrifice on Calvary for our sin.

Stop playing games, time is running out, you must personally receive Jesus Christ sacrifice for your own sin, receive it make it your own, if not I am sorry to say, you are going to hell.

### Let's bow our heads.

You have heard that Jesus Christ died for sin, your and my sin but today you know you have to accepted or received that gift and make His death for your sin, your own bit receiving Jesus Christ as your Saviour and you want to it today, right now - I want you to raise your hands.

### Communion

Amen, praise God for those who made Jesus Christ their Lord and Saviour, now we are going to declare His Death and Resurrection and part take in Communion where we part take in the emblems of His Body and Blood.

As we prepare to take communion, let us read what the Bible says in **1 Corinthians 13:27-31** *"27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment."*

The Bible says in part of **1 Corinthians 13**, That each one of us must examine ourselves before the Lord before they eat the bread and drink the cup so that we do not bring a curse on ourselves by partaking of it in an unworthy manor.

So, right now where you are sitting, repent of your sins, repent of hold things against people and unconditionally forgive everyone, because as freely as you are forgiven God expects us to forgive others, so ask God to forgive you and speak those people and yourself free, repent of unconfessed sin, repent and



get right with God, this is a Holy time, a time when we remember the price Jesus Christ paid for our sin and the sin of the entire human race because we do not want to bring judgement over ourselves.

The brothers and sisters can distribute the emblems, please hold on to them we will partake together.

We are reading from **1 Corinthians 13:23-26** *"<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."*

Jesus Christ's body was beaten, crucified, and died for you and your sin, let remember His body that was shed for our sin, let us remember and part take.

*"<sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*

Let us take the cup and as we drink of it, we drink His precious Blood that was shed at Calvary for the forgiveness of our sin, His Blood keeps on cleaning us, His Blood keeps on healing us, His Blood gives us full access to God and speaks us free from any and all sin.

Amen, let us stand up, let us praise God.

Thank Him for saving you.

Thank Him healing you.

Thank Him because He is God and in full control

Thank you for your life you get to live

Ask Him to use you in His Kingdom

### Closing prayer

Now Father we praise You for the Cross, thank You for Your nail pierced hands, Thank You for Your body and blood that was shed for the forgiveness of our sin and also our healing.

Thank you that we get to live life with You as our Great Shepherd, we surrender our lives to You alone, we give You everything we have, and we ask You to use us in Your Kingdom.

Open Your Word to us, give us a heart that seeks You, a heart that follows Your Commands and heart for people and may we serve You with our entire life we pray, Amen and Amen.