

7 Things Seven Plus Series

Seven Plus Series The Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

The aim of these short studies is to encourage us to keep central in our preaching the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul wrote to the Corinthians in his first letter chapter 2 v. 1 that he was resolved to know nothing while he was with them except Christ and Him crucified. The reality of the Cross is so vital to our preaching today. To preach the Cross will make people uncomfortable but the message received brings comfort and hope.

We will make a journey and look at the Cross from different parts of the Bible.

- The first 5 books (the Pentateuch) and the Cross
- The Psalm 22 and the Cross
- The Prophet Isaiah and the Cross
- The Gospels and the Cross
- The Acts and the Cross
- The Letters and the Cross
- Revelation and the Cross

I do not know much about heaven but I do know that Jesus, the Lamb of God slain for us is on the throne and we look forward to joining the chorus: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!” Revelation 5:12.
May these studies give you a taste of that which is to come.

THE PENTATEUCH AND THE CROSS

Genesis 3: 21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

Nakedness was the physical representation of their disobedience to God, engulfed with the shame and knowledge of that disobedience which was the first sin.

In their shame, they both tried to hide from God who was walking in the garden. (Genesis 3:8) This is the second sin of man and with that sin come shame and "nakedness", the exposure of our sin.

It is often true that once we sin, having known the truth it becomes very apparent to our conscience when we sin again.

If we habitually sin then we sear our conscience and lose all sense of right and wrong.

Covering The Lord saw their shame and made a conscious decision to do something about it. The immediate response was to provide them with clothing. This clothing was made from the skins of animals. God`s act of mercy was not deserved but though hating their sin, He still loved them.

Sacrifice. The act of sacrificing an animal to provide covering is powerfully symbolic of the reality that to deal with our sin, this would require death and the shedding of blood. As early as Genesis 3 we see that God was prepared to send His Son who would shed His blood to thoroughly cleanse away our sin and shame.

Genesis 22

Abraham is tested as to his willingness to sacrifice Isaac.

God said to Abraham "Take your son, your only son whom you love- Isaac and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you"

This incredible story of Abraham`s willingness to offer his son believing God would raise him from the dead has amazing parallels with the Cross.

According to many scholars, Golgotha and the ancient site of **Mount Moriah** may be the same area. In other words, scholars believe that Jesus may have been crucified near Moriah or at its summit.

However there is a very big difference. Abraham did not have to go through with sacrificing his son but God the Father did sacrifice His Son, His only Son whom He loved.

The willingness of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit to pay the price to save us is marvelous beyond words. This is amazing love: Jesus given up to death for us.

Exodus 12:1-13

The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. v.13

The Hebrews were in slavery in Egypt and Pharaoh kept refusing to let the people go. 9 plagues did not persuade him so a tenth plague was decreed. The tenth plague would bring death to the firstborn in every house. The Hebrews could escape death by putting the blood of a lamb on the lintel and doorposts of their homes. The angel of death would pass over where the blood was shed.

Jesus is the Lamb of God. Sin gives birth to death and we are under that sentence of physical death and spiritual death. Jesus shed His blood so that we could escape the curse of death. Many lambs were needed in Egypt but Jesus the Lamb of God takes away the sin of the world. His once and for all sacrifice means that we escape slavery to Satan. His blood satisfies the wrath of a holy God and frees us to enjoy God's love and forgiveness.

Numbers 21:6-9

The bronze serpent and healing.

⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

The story of rebellion and disobedience by God`s people is responded to by the mercy of God. The people are dying because of snake bites and the snakes were punishment from God. Moses intercedes for God`s people despite their bitterness towards Him personally.

God tells him to make a serpent out of bronze and to place it upon a pole lifted high. God says that those who look to His provision will live and not die. Those who reject His provision will die.

The people were dying without any hope but a look at the snake on the pole would change everything.

Jesus quotes this story when talking to Nicodemus and says “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness so the Son of man must be lifted up that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him.” John 3:14-15.

When we look to Jesus who died on the Cross, He will forgive our sin and save us from eternal death. Looking to Jesus with faith and confidence changes everything. He volunteered to be lifted up on the Cross for you and for me.

PSALM 22 AND THE CROSS

Here are a selection of verses from this remarkable Psalm. Remember that this was written long before the Romans introduced their particularly crude and horrible method of public execution.

***¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?***

These words come from the lips of Jesus as He is dying on the Cross. They reveal His most painful moment because it is not the beating and the nails that hurt most. It is when our sin and the sins of the world come upon Him that He is separated from God who cannot look upon sin.

Throughout all of Jesus` ministry, He refers to God as Father but in this moment the relationship is broken and He cries out “My God, My God...”

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² *My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.*^[b]

³ *Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the one Israel praises.*^[c]

⁴ *In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.*

⁶ ***But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.***

⁷ ***All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.***

⁸ ***“He trusts in the LORD,” they say,
“let the LORD rescue him.***

***Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him.”***

¹² ***Many bulls surround me;
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.***

¹³ ***Roaring lions that tear their prey
open their mouths wide against me.***

These words spell out so graphically the mocking, scornful and shameful treatment of the pure Son of God. Jesus who had healed countless numbers of sick people, delivered people from satanic powers, is being treated as dirt. It is absolutely amazing how the One who made the universe should allow this to happen to Him and we know He is silent and does not answer back.

¹⁴ ***I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.***

***My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted within me.***

¹⁵ ***My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.***

¹⁶ ***Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;***

they pierce^[e] my hands and my feet.
***17 All my bones are on display;
people stare and gloat over me.***
***18 They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.***

This again is an amazing description of crucifixion. We know that nailed to the cross Jesus would have suffered considerable pain as He would have had difficulty breathing and adjusting His body with grave limitations while on the Cross. He would have been nailed to the Cross by His hands and feet just as described by the Psalmist. It also looks very likely that He had been scourged twice and therefore with flesh whipped away by the awful cat of nine tails, His bones were exposed.

It is also probable that Jesus like others crucified would have been stripped naked. His outer clothing was removed and his cloak gambled over. This part of the humiliating process to be naked on the Cross bearing our shame.

*19 But you, LORD, do not be far from me.
You are my strength; come quickly to help me.*

*20 Deliver me from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dogs.*

*21 Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.*

*24 For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.*

*25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
before those who fear you^[f] I will fulfil my vows.*

*26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him—
may your hearts live forever!*

*27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the
families of the nations, future generations will be told about the Lord.*

*31 They will proclaim his righteousness,
declaring to a people yet unborn:
He has done it!*

Psalm 22 goes much further than the Gospel account in helping us see what suffering Jesus went through to achieve our salvation. We can see how much Jesus identifies with those who suffer.

Hallelujah what a Saviour!

The Prophet Isaiah and the Cross

Many Old Testament prophets speak about the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah. However it is Isaiah who speaks most powerfully about the Cross.

In chapters 52-53

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-

We may not appreciate the full extent of the beating of Jesus even His face. He was slapped around by the soldiers and His face was so damaged, it was hard to recognise him. The mess that they made of His lovely face was grotesque and far beyond what was warranted for a criminal but especially of our Saviour Jesus. The hatred behind this was intense but Jesus bore it all for me and for you.

¹⁵ so he will sprinkle many nations,
and kings will shut their mouths because of him.
For what they were not told, they will see,
and what they have not heard, they will understand.
Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
² He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
³ He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Jesus undoubtedly was a very handsome young man but on the Cross he was brutalised, despised and rejected. He is the King of Kings but was made an object of ridicule, a man of suffering and familiar with pain. We live in a world of suffering and pain and Jesus truly identifies with that. When we suffer, He suffers with us and fully understands what we handle.

⁴ Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.
⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;

the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

Jesus in fact was not suffering for any wrong He had committed but this is all for us. It is our sin and our pain. He was abandoned by His Father God because He was taking our sin and the punishment we deserve, upon Him. He was not a victim of the wrath of God but He was a willing recipient of that wrath so we could escape it.

Peace. We have peace with God because of Jesus' suffering on our behalf. We have peace in ourselves because we are in a right relationship with God.

"By his wounds we are healed." We have healing because Jesus has dealt with sin which is the root cause of all sickness and disease. The Cross of Jesus has overcome all the power of sin and its effects upon us.

We can experience the healing of our soul immediately. Our broken relationship with God has been healed and we can now walk with Him without fear. The healing of our bodies is also available. This is not a right and sometimes God chooses to take people home to heaven. This is the ultimate healing because the environment of heaven is completely sin free. However God has plans for our lives and so we must ask for healing that nothing interrupts those plans. If God has more work for you to do no sickness, accident or scheme against you can succeed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes^[c] his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

¹¹ After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life^[d] and be satisfied^[e];
by his knowledge^[f] my righteous servant will justify many,

and he will bear their iniquities.
¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,^[g]
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,^[h]
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah's remarkable prophecy reveals that the Suffering Servant is handling the plight of us sinners who like sheep wander and fall into danger. Jesus has unreservedly taken upon Himself to be our good shepherd. He has taken full responsibility to clear the huge debt of our sin. Jesus particularly before Pilate did not defend Himself but remained silent in His trial even though the evidence spoken against Him was completely untrue.

Isaiah reminds us that despite Pilate, the Pharisees, scribes and high priest, God was sovereign over all these events and it was God's plan to allow Jesus to suffer so that sin, Satan, death, and hell could be defeated and the holy wrath of God against sin could be satisfied.

Jesus will emerge from this dreadful time triumphant and we are the benefactors of all that He suffered.

Man of Sorrows! What a name for the Son of God who came ruined sinners to reclaim! Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

The Gospels and the Cross

Jesus predicts His death." From that time on, Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." Matthew 16:21, 17:22–23, Mark 9:30–32, and Luke 9:43–45.

The synoptic gospels as seen above show us that Jesus warned the disciples about His death and suffering but also His resurrection. Their observation of His authority and miracles made it inconceivable that He should suffer and die.

All the gospels give us the record of Jesus' death but what follows is a highlight from each gospel. The sayings of Jesus, "Father forgive them", "I thirst", "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?", "It is finished" and "Into your hands I commit my spirit" are well documented so I have chosen 4 other events.

Matthew 27:51 The Temple Curtain. In the temple was a curtain which separated the holy of holies from the main temple area. What an amazing record of how this curtain, which we imagine to be made of strong material suddenly is torn in two. Anyone in the temple at the time would have been terrified. The significance however is phenomenal. The curtain meant that no one could enter that place except a chosen priest and only once a year. Everyone else was barred from that place and to violate the area uninvited would mean death. Now the death of Jesus on the Cross has opened the way so that all can enter the presence of God safely and have fellowship with Him. We can enter as many times as we would like. Access is free and available to us sinners who come under the covering of the blood of Jesus. Men and women, rich or poor, educated or uneducated, young or old, the Cross has made it possible to come to God

Mark 15:16-20 The soldier's mockery of Jesus

The Old Testament has reflected this mockery but Mark gives us a record of what happened. There is a company of soldiers. The intimidation of a group of men must have been harrowing in itself. They remove His clothes and put a purple robe on Him. They make a crown of thorns and place it upon His head.

They call out “Hail King of the Jews!” and strike Him on the head with a staff. They spit on Him.

They then fall on their knees and pay mock homage to Him. After their vile mockery they remove the purple clothes and put Jesus` clothes back on him and lead Him out for crucifixion.

Jesus faced such awful humiliation to deal with our sin and shame. The power of the Cross removes every stain and guilt.

One day every knee shall bow and truly honour Jesus as God and King, even those soldiers whose story is told here. Our sin led to Jesus handling this so we are guilty even as the soldiers were.

Luke 23:39-43. What the thieves saw.

At first the two thieves see the same as each other. There is no honour for Jesus as they both mock Him and condemn Him. However one of the thieves is watching Jesus closely. Despite His pain he notices how different Jesus is in the way He handles His pain and death. There is no bitterness, no hatred, no swearing and cursing. Jesus is calm, humble and full of compassion.

This thief makes a powerful conclusion. He rebukes the other thief and says that they deserve their suffering and that they are guilty but this man Jesus has done nothing wrong. He is innocent.

Then he says “Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He not only repents of his sin, accepting his guilt but he acknowledges that Jesus is a king and will lead a kingdom. Amazingly he believes that Jesus will conquer death and will reign as King. Jesus says “Today you will be with me in paradise.”

What do you see as you reflect on the crucifixion of Christ? Let us see our sin and our Saviour.

John 19:25-27 Jesus, Mary and John.

Despite the terrible suffering of Jesus and despite the beating around His face, Jesus has time for Mary and John. He knows very well how much Mary has sacrificed to give birth to Him and her love for Him as a mother but she realises

that He is the Son of God. She has handled this with great dignity and now seeing Him on the Cross is so very painful for her. We do not know her circumstances but Jesus did. Jesus wanted her to be cared for and provided for by someone who would know and understand her. John had appreciated very much who Jesus truly was and was well placed to support Mary at this time.

It appears that John too had needs. It seems likely his natural mother had died and he would benefit from a mother figure in his life. The two are brought together at the Cross and Jesus provides care for them both.

Obviously the gospel record has much more detail than is mentioned here but here are some reflections on Jesus taking care of us despite our sin and providing what we need most: security and love.

ACTS AND THE CROSS

From the day of Pentecost the message of the Cross and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus are powerfully proclaimed to all who will hear it. Let us consider a few of the messages:

Peter on the day of Pentecost and at the house of Cornelius

Chapter 2

³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” ³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Peter makes it clear that the Jesus despised and rejected by the Jews is truly the Christ, the Messiah. The message in the Acts is not just that Jesus was crucified but that people should know who was crucified. How amazing that Jesus truly God and man was crucified for us.

Chapter 10 ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. ³⁹ “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one

whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Here Peter reminds us that the Christ crucified for us will now be our Judge. He was nailed to the Cross for us and bore our shame and guilt but a day is coming when He will be the judge of all. He will judge in righteousness and that day of judgement will mean the opportunity for salvation is past. Now is the time to believe and be saved.

Stephen before he is stoned Acts 7

⁵¹ “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵² Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— ⁵³ you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”

Stephen like Peter is committed to explaining who Jesus really is. He proclaims that those who crucified Jesus were murderers. The awful reality is that just as the murder of righteous Abel followed the sin and rebellion of Adam and Eve, the Lord Jesus was murdered by us as a result of our disobedience and rebellion. Sin matters and can only be dealt with by a Saviour willing to be sacrificed for us and His name is Jesus.

Philip in Samaria and in particular his time with the Ethiopian. Chapter 8

But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

30-35 ³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”^[b]

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

Philip proclaimed in Samaria the good news that Jesus died for our sins and was raised from the dead. This is what the good news is.

Philip helps the Ethiopian reading the 53rd chapter of Isaiah, to understand that the suffering servant of God, the despised, rejected man of sorrows is the Lord Jesus Himself. He is the Lamb of God who was sacrificed in our place to bring us to God.

Paul on his missionary journeys

Acts 13 ⁷ The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. ²⁸ Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹ When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead,

Acts 14 ²¹ They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, ²² strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.

Acts 26 ¹⁵ “Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ “ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. ¹⁶ ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. ¹⁷ I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them ¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

¹⁹ “So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. ²⁰ First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

²¹ That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. ²² But God has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— ²³ that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

In the above passages Paul shares the total injustice of Christ’s death. False accusations and an absurd ruling by Pilate meant Christ was sentenced to crucifixion. However it is the Cross and sacrifice of Christ that enable us to be released from Satan’s kingdom and to come out of darkness to Christ’s light. Obviously the apostles are speaking of the resurrection of Jesus as well as His death.

The Letters and the Cross

All the letters seek to inspire and build up our faith in Christ crucified and risen from the dead. For the purpose of this study we will confine our thoughts to Paul. Peter and John.

Paul's letters.

Romans 5:8-10 God loved us so much and sent Jesus to die for us before we ever thought of Him

1 Corinthians 1:18-23, 2:2, 15:3. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

The message of the cross is foolishness to some but to us who believe it is the power of God bringing us salvation Paul was determined that they should know first and foremost the message of Christ crucified. Christ died so that we live for Him and not ourselves.

Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 1:7, 5: 25, Philippians 2:8-9 Colossians 1:20-22, 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10, 1 timothy 1:15-17, 2 timothy 1:10, Titus 3:4, Hebrews 1:3, 2:9, 13:20

Paul teaches us the Cross is not an event to observe but we enter into His sufferings and we die to self and our old life is crucified with Him. We are redeemed from Satan's kingdom through the blood of Jesus.

The Cross affects all of our life. Our married life as husbands is to love our wives even as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. The humility of Christ in His obedience to facing death, even the death of the Cross is amazing. We rejoice with Paul that a day will dawn when at the name of Jesus every knee will bow and confess Him as Lord. We who were enemies of God have been made friends through Christ's death. We are able to face death and life because of Jesus' death for us. It is a trustworthy saying that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Christ has destroyed death. He has provided purification for our sins and as the great Shepherd of the sheep, He shed His blood so we could be equipped to serve God.

Peter's and John's letters

1 Peter 1:18-19, 2:22-24,4:13, 2 Peter 1:9. 1 john 1:7-9, 3:16, 4:9-10

It is the precious blood of Jesus shed on the Cross, the spotless Lamb of God who saves us. He bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sin, live for righteousness and be healed through His sacrifice. We share in His sufferings when we live as He lived.

If we confess our sins, the Cross has made possible for God not to compromise but in faithfulness and justice He forgives our sins. Christ laying down His life is true love. God has shown immense love by allowing Jesus to come and die for us so unworthy sinners.

Revelation

Jesus the Lamb of God is the centre of heaven. Everything revolves around Him who was slain for us and now reigns for ever and ever.

1:5-7, 17-18, 4:9-11, 5:6-14, 7:17,12:11, 19:5-9,21:27

When Christ returns every eye will see Him even those who nailed Him to the Cross and the soldier who thrust a spear into Jesus' side. We will see the risen Christ but He will still bear the marks, demonstrating He did die for us. Jesus is seen as the Lamb of God. He is the object of worship, praise and honour. Jesus will wipe away every tear as He is given the worship He so thoroughly deserves. Our accuser is thrown down and our testimony is that Jesus and Jesus alone has saved us from sin, Satan, death and hell.

We are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb and our names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Jesus once so despised and rejected is now glorified and we are invited to reign with Him for ever.

Worthy is the Lamb slain for me and for you!

Hallelujah!



Rev Richard and Elaine Brunton