

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. When the apostle Paul looked at the cross, he saw direction and purpose for his life - Gal. 6:14
 - 1. He saw the foundation of his faith - Gal. 2:20
 - 2. He saw the focus of his preaching - 1Cor. 2:2
 - 3. He saw something incomprehensible to many - 1Cor. 1:23
- B. What do you see when you survey the cross?

I. HUMAN PERSPECTIVES

- A. Judas saw money - John 12:4-6; Matt. 26:14-16
 - 1. The cross rose above Judas' vision - Matt. 27:3-5
- B. The Jewish authorities saw it as a means of silencing Jesus
 - 1. Many believed in Jesus, and the leaders feared losing control of the masses - John 11:48
 - 2. Multitudes were following Jesus - John 12:19
 - 3. Jewish leaders began plotting His death - John 11:47-53
 - 4. The cross defeated their plans - Acts 4:15-22, 5:17-32, 40-42
- C. Pilate saw it as a means of self-preservation
 - 1. He knew Jesus was innocent - Luke 23:4
 - 2. He yielded to the pressure - John 19:12; Matt. 27:24; Mark 15:15
 - 3. He sacrificed Jesus to save himself, but the cross overturned his intentions - John 12:25
- D. Soldiers saw it as entertainment - Luke 23:11; John 19:23-24; Matt. 27:27-31
 - 1. The cross changed their minds - Matt. 27:50-54

II. GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

- A. God saw justice satisfied
 - 1. Justified by Jesus' blood - Rom. 5:8-9
 - 2. Jesus paid our death penalty for us - Heb. 2:9
 - 3. He took our sins to the cross - Isa. 53:5, 11
 - 4. He became our propitiation; He turned away God's wrath from us
 - a. Propitiation is the act of appeasing God or making well-disposed, thus incurring divine favor or avoiding divine retribution.
 - b. 1John 4:9-10
- B. The Son saw it as a way to manifest submission
 - 1. He learned obedience - Heb. 5:7-9
 - 2. He submitted to the Father's will - Matt. 26:39, 53-54
 - 3. He endured and scorned the suffering - Heb. 12:2
 - 4. He humbled himself - Phil. 2:8
- C. The Divine perspective is the one, true view of the cross

III. THE CHRISTIAN'S PERSPECTIVE

- A. Saints see salvation - Eph. 1:7; 1Peter 1:18-19
- B. Christians see sin destroyed - Rom. 6:6
- C. Children of God see a kingdom purchased - Acts 20:28
- D. The saved see God's power - 1Cor. 1:18. 23-24

IV. THE LOST'S PERSPECTIVE

- A. They see foolishness - 1Cor. 1:18
 - 1. Yet, we preach that message anyway - 1Cor. 1:23
- B. The lost look on with incomprehension - 1Cor. 2:14
 - 1. Yet, the power of God can be seen there - Rom. 1:16
 - 2. It is at the heart of all we teach - 1Cor. 2:1-2
- C. What do you see at the cross?