

WHY THE CROSS?

“This Man (Jesus) was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross.” Acts 2:23

The chief priests accused (Jesus) of many things. So again Pilate asked Him, “Aren’t You going to answer? See how many things they are accusing You of.” But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. Mark 15:3-5

I. Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

- *Not because the crowds _____ it.*
- *Not because Satan _____ it.*
- *Not because the Pharisees conspired and _____ for it.*
- *Because the Heavenly Father beforehand planned the cross sacrifice, and the Son of God willingly carried out His mission.* (John 10:17-18)

(Jesus said) “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

II. Peace For Us: That’s Why!

- *Peace with _____ (II Corinthians 15:19a).* Our sin (rebellion and independence) has caused God’s wrath toward us. Only Christ’s cross sacrifice for forgiveness of our sin can reconcile us to God.
- *Peace within _____* – Our break with God causes turmoil within us as sin is in control. The cross brings us peace from this turmoil.

(Jesus said) “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

III. Power For Us: That’s Why!

- *We all want and _____ power in our lives.* Power means security, wealth, prestige, and the means to achieve in life. Earthly power is insufficient, and often causes more problems than it solves.
- *We receive superior spiritual power through the coming of the _____ for every believer.* (Acts 1:8; John 16:7)
- *We receive power through being adopted as _____ of God.* (Ephesians 1:5; Acts 9:5)

To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, “If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31-32

IV. Freedom For Us: That's Why!

- **Freedom from** _____ **and its consequences.** We are freed from the slavery of sin. (Romans 6:6-7)
- **Freedom to an** _____ **life** – Christ's sacrifice brings God's blessings and purpose in our lives. (John 10:10)
- **Freedom to be** _____ **God wants you to be.** God has a wonderful plan and purpose for your life when you accept Christ as your Savior and Lord. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Answers: I. Demanded; influenced; pushed. II. God; ourselves. III. Need; Holy Spirit; children. IV. Sin; abundant; everything.