

“THE CROSS”

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Next Sunday is Easter. The day we reflect on the resurrection of the man called Jesus. Resurrections are wonderful, I think we would all agree, but before someone can be resurrected, someone has to die. Before Jesus was resurrected, He was crucified on an old rugged cross. Crucifixion was the worst possible way to die, yet that is exactly how Jesus died. He was tortured. Because of this, the cross is the universal symbol of Christianity. Have you ever thought about that? A tree of torture became a symbol of hope. We've all seen people wearing crosses around their neck, but I doubt if you have ever seen anyone wearing a tiny electric chair. I've never seen a gold plated hangman's noose on anybody's wall. I haven't seen a picture of a firing squad on any business cards. Yet all of that is done with the cross. People hang it around their neck, hang it on the wall and put it on business cards.

The design of the cross couldn't be simpler. One beam horizontal, the other vertical. One reaches out, the other reaches up.

The cross is the intersection between God and man. It's where God forgave man without lowering His standards.

Rom 5:8-9 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

We are saved from wrath because of what took place at Calvary. Because Jesus was willing to die, we can live. Because He was willing to shed His blood, our sins can be forgiven.

The cross isn't just something to wear around your neck or hang on your mirror in your car or nail to your wall, the cross is the reason that we have hope today and not only for today, but most importantly, for all eternity.

Thank God for the cross because without it, there would be no resurrection.