



“The Heart & Center for Life”

A look at the CROSS (1)

3/29/09

Text: Galatians 6:14 & Others

“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

*When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most –
I sacrifice them to His blood.*

*See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

(When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Isaac Watts)

Q. – Why? Why such a focus on a symbol of death?

The Cross was *always* in the crosshairs of Jesus' life and teaching.

Cross references: Matthew 16:13-18, 21-23; 20:28; Luke 9:30-31; the Cross and death of Jesus consumes the majority of every Gospel.

The Cross serves as the centerpiece of New Testament teaching.

Cross references: Acts 13:38-39a; Romans 3:21-25; 5:5-8; 1 Corinthians 1:22-24, 2:2; 15:1-4

The Cross stands at the center of the Communion Table. See 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

What we “do” when we *do this* each month, which is our practice, is declare, proclaim, preach and announce the Lord's death until He comes. Not His teaching, Not His example primarily, but His death. THE HEART & CENTER FOR LIFE is the Cross.

