

The overwhelming mystery of the cross!

1 Corinthians 1:18 “For the preaching of the cross **is to them that perish foolishness**; but unto us **which are saved it is the power of God.**”

Why are there not just mysteries to the cross but “overwhelming mysteries”? The greatest mystery of all is the question “why” why would God who is all holy ever think of saving any sinful man, but an entire remnant? And why would God send His very own Son to redeem such awful and worthless people? Why would God ever, not only redeem us through His Son but allow Him to unmercifully suffer at the hands of wicked men and Satan as He did? There are so many overwhelming mysteries about God and the cross of Jesus we will never understand them, nor will we ever understand our true miserable status as sinners. But the more we learn about our sinful natures the more the overwhelming mystery the cross becomes. And the main question must be, why did God do it, and why can't I ever appreciate what God has done enough”?

- A. Do we see in our hearts our blessed Substitute on the cross?
1. Wow, what a picture God has painted for our thoughts, not for a time but for a lifetime.
 2. Let us all picture in our minds all the waves of God's righteous wrath, His wrath against my sins, His wrath which should have consumed me, my soul, my body in hell throughout all eternity. Can we see it?
 3. We must see all our sins as God put them on the man who stood in my stead; who represented me before God; who bore all that was due to me: with whom our Holy God dealt as He should have dealt with me. Oh, the overwhelmingness, oh, what a blessing.
 4. I see God's holy justice, God's holiness, truth, and righteousness dealing with my sins as I see His Beloved Son suffer for them.
 5. Jesus making a clear and eternal riddance of them. Not one of them will be missed, not one single sin. **Isaiah 38:17** “Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: **but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.**”
 - a. **Isaiah 43:25** “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”
 - b. **Psalms 85:2** “Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.” – Remember, God's elected nation is Israel, God's chosen people are a remnant of both Jews and Gentiles also known as part of the tree of Abraham.

Romans 11:11 *"I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather **through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles**, for to provoke them to jealousy." (17) And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;" – The words "grafted in means - to prick in, that is, ingraft.*

c. **Micah 7:18 - 19** *"Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the **transgression of the remnant of his heritage**? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. (19) He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; **he will subdue our iniquities**; and thou wilt **cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.**"* The word "subdue" means - to tread down; hence negatively to disregard; positively to conquer – The word conquer means – to overcome and take control of our iniquities by force.

6. Do we see it? Do we truly see what an overwhelming blessing it is to be a child of God? In This flesh we will see the hidden mysteries of the cross.

B. This is the justice of God for us.

1. The eternity of punishment for a life of sin of all the elect was placed on Jesus, God's beloved Son. **1 Peter 2:24** *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." – Oh, who can understand, who is able to count the blessings?*
2. Understanding that we must think that a few years of sinfulness equals endless ages of torment in the lake of fire. Jesus saved us from this wrath. **Romans 5:8 - 10** *"But God commendeth (that is He exhibited) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."*
3. Oh, what a blessing that God's Son because of His life and death saved me from an eternal torment in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone forever and ever. We must have eternal hallelujahs to the God of all grace, and the overwhelming blessings of His Son Jesus.
4. God, instead of sending us to hell because of our sins, He sent His Son to be the propitiation for those sins. This is the love of God toward us. **1 John 4:9 - 10** *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into*

the world, that we might live through him. (10) Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- A. Vines defines the word (propitiation) this way “*signifying that He Himself, through the expiatory sacrifice of His death, is the personal means by **whom God shows mercy to the sinner who believes on Christ as the One thus provided.***”
- C. How is it possible for a person to believe that God has satisfied Himself as to his sins?
1. Our sins are innumerable, they are so filthy, they are so dammed by a Just God. How could God ever be satisfied enough to forgive them? **Romans 7:24 - 25** “*O wretched man(miserable) that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (25) **I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.** So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*”
 2. Our gracious God has forgiven our sins and will remember them no more. **Hebrews 8:12** “*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and **their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.***”
 3. Since God has assured me that all my sins are blotted out as a thick; cloud, that they are cast behind His back and for ever gone from His sight, why should I not wonder in the “overwhelming mysteries of the cross, WHY?”
 4. Now, God has shown us the man who bore my sins on the cross, the blessings bestowed on us, and while we may not understand it all, what a blessing of understanding and grace God has shown us. **Is this not reason for eternal hallelujahs to the God of all grace!**
 5. Instead of sending us all to hell because of our sins, He sent His Son to be the propitiation for those sins.
- D. Now this must give peace to the conscience of every believer.
1. God says to us, “*Your sins and iniquities I will remember no more,*” **Hebrews 8:12** “*For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*” – **Oh, Lord God what a tall order, how Lord is this possible, I must have misunderstood Lord!**
 2. Lord, could I have misunderstood You? **Hebrews 10:17- 18** “*And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (18) Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.*” **This is without question the overwhelming mystery of the cross!**

3. God assures me that all my sins are blotted out as a thick; cloud, that they are cast behind His back, for ever gone from His sight. – We can live in peace with God, being never concerned about His wrath because we are saved from it.
 4. God spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up, and bruised Him on the cursed tree, in order that He might be able, in perfect righteousness, to let the rich streams of grace flow forth from His loving heart to us poor guilty, self-destroyed, conscience-smitten sinners.
- E. We Are Deliverance from The Presence and Power of Sin.
1. This is the most outstanding point for every true lover of holiness. We have Victory over sin.
 2. **Romans 5:15** *“But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.”* – Without question this is the overwhelming mystery of the cross, how did God ever forgive me?
 3. **Romans 11:5 - 6** *“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. (6) And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”* – What is “works” it is an effort, any effort on our part. Jesus paid it all, He paid it in full, He said *“it is finished.”* John 19:30
 4. Because of what Jesus Christ did on that wicked tree and by the wicked hands of those that crucified Him, every believer is privileged to regard himself as dead to sin. He can sing, with a glad heart, *“Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it! Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; Redeemed through His infinite mercy, His child and forever I am.”* Sing it loud and sing it with much praise to God.
 5. What a great and glorious joy it is, but how is it possible, **Gal. 2:20** *“I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*