

# 39 The Message of the Cross

Chapter 1 Corinthians 1:17–25

## Today's Lesson:



1. To understand that the message of the cross is our greatest power.

2. To understand that each one of us must bear our own cross and follow our Lord.

Open Your Heart



The picture above shows the hand of a girl who miraculously escaped from a kidnapper in Russia. She was immediately transferred to a hospital. Even before she received medical treatment, she lost consciousness. However, even in this state, this girl held something very tightly in her hand and never let it go.

One day, one of the nurses got curious about what was in the girl's hands and forcibly opened her palm. In the girl's hand was a small cross. Within this girl's desperate and difficult circumstances, it was the cross that she held onto and relied on.

Let us think for a moment.

What is it that I am holding onto today and not letting go of?



## Understanding Today's Lesson

Jesus, the Son of God, completed the Gospel by dying on the cross on our behalf and being resurrected after three days. This message of the cross is the power of God that gives salvation to all people. People who do not know much about God might consider the message of the cross as foolishness, but born again saints surely know that this is their biggest power. This is why Paul said, "For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified." The cross is the truth that everyone needs.

The message of the cross is the power that passes a sinner from death into life. It is a strength that is able to make those weak and foolish into those that are strong and wise. The message of the cross is the highest piece of knowledge which is able to inspire one to consider everything in the world as rubbish and throw them away. It also gives us the strength to endure sufferings and persecutions, and whether we live or die, it gives us the desire to repay the Lord for His grace. Furthermore, the message of the cross unites everyone in love. The message of the cross is our biggest strength.

We all received salvation by truly understanding the message of the cross. As born again Christians, we need to live our lives experiencing the power of God. We must deny ourselves and bear our own cross and follow our Lord, walking the path of the cross.

Notes:



## Memorizing Bible Verses

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

(Galatians 2:20)



Meditate

## On These Verses

1. After you have meditated on the following verses, give a title of the verse or write a short summary of the verse. Also, write down things you have felt about the verse, or other verses that it has reminded you of.

(Luke 9:22–25)

(Romans 6:5–11)

(Galatians 6:14)



Changing

## Directions

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18–25 and answer the following questions.

1. What did the Jews, who claimed to be the people of God, request? What did the Greeks, who considered themselves as civilized, seek?

2. To those Jews and Greeks, what did Apostle Paul and the Christians preach? How was this preaching viewed by the Jews and the Greeks?

3. In today's time, what do the students of the world seek? If we were to preach the cross to them, how do you think they would respond?

4. Though we may expect and anticipate certain reactions, what is it that we need most to be able to deliver the message of the cross to these people?

5. The cross was where God's justice and love came together and was where His great wisdom was revealed. It is able to overcome defeat and grant eternal life, and it is the power of God that gives us hope in this world. How much of His power am I experiencing in my life?



Applying

## The Word to My Life

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.  
(James 2:26)

1. Please write down how you will apply what you learned today throughout this week.

1.)

2.)

3.)

2. Look back and reflect on how successful you were at applying last week's lesson.



Praying

## To Live According to the Word

When we received salvation, Jesus accepted us into His heart. In order to preach the Lord's cross, let us pray that we can have the heart of Jesus to bear our own cross and follow Him.



# Our Story

## The Last Stop of Life

Everyone get off!  
This is the last  
stop!



Everyone on the bus must get off at the last stop.

Life is the same in front of death.

Remember how short my time is; For what futility have You created all the children of men? (Psalms 89:47)

As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. (Psalms 103:15)

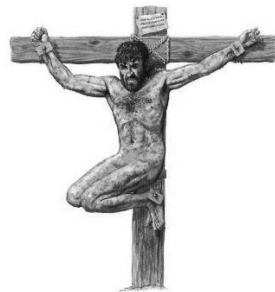
## The Punishment of the Cross

Crucifixion was one of the execution methods of ancient Rome. It was originally an execution method used in Assyria and the Persian Empire, then later the method spread to Greece, Carthago, and to Rome. At first, it was just a harsh punishment where slaves were tied to trees and were tortured, but in the first century, it changed to a punishment that was to punish anyone who opposed the Roman Empire. In fact, in 66 A.D., around 3,600 Jews who stirred up a Jewish rebellion were crucified. In 70 A.D., General Titus crucified 500 Jewish hostages daily in order to subjugate the First Jewish–Roman War. According to Josephus the historian, so many Jews were nailed on a cross that there was no more space to set up a cross, nor was there any more wood to build a cross.

It was after the year 1967 when these crucifixions began to be discovered and studied by biblical archaeologists. The background behind these discoveries begins with the uncovering of the tombs and 8 urns that were used during the New Testament times in east Jerusalem. Biblical archaeologists discovered 17 pieces of skeletal remains in these urns. These skeletal remains were in these urns due to the funeral tradition of the Jews. Because the Jews believed in resurrection, when one died, they make a stone tomb and put the body there, and when the body decayed into a skeleton or became ashes, they put it into an urn. One of the remains that was discovered contained a foot that had an iron nail pierced into the heel. After detailed research and investigation, biblical archaeologists in Israel concluded that the owner of that skeletal heel was crucified. There was a sharp scratch on the wrist bone, which confirmed that the crucifixion was performed not by nailing the hands and feet, but rather the wrists and heels. Crucifixion was a method of public execution that involved hanging a person on the cross until they slowly reached a comatose state. This included experiencing muscular convulsion and suffocation for hours. Furthermore, people were whipped before they were actually put on the cross, and they were forced to carry their own cross in nakedness. The following is a quote by Roman philosopher Cicero:

"But the executioner, the veiling of heads, and the very word 'cross,' let them all be far removed from not only the bodies of Roman citizens but even from their thoughts, their eyes, and their ears. The results and suffering from these doings as well as the situation, even anticipation, of their enablement, and, in the end, the mere mention of them are unworthy of a Roman citizen and a free man."

We can see here that crucifixion was a very averse and cruel punishment.



but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:23–24)



# Wednesday

Sermon

Date. | |

Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage:



# Sunday

Sermon

Date.

|

|

Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage:



Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:12–13)



♥ The contents of my prayer (Please write down what your prayer is specifically about)

♥ The process of my prayer being answered (Write down the things you experienced in the midst of your prayer and how you were thankful)

♥ The result of your prayer (Write down the scriptures or meditations you were provided through your prayer)

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:12–13)



- ♥ The contents of my prayer (Please write down what your prayer is specifically about)

- ♥ The process of my prayer being answered (Write down the things you experienced in the midst of your prayer and how you were thankful)

- ♥ The result of your prayer (Write down the scriptures or meditations you were provided through your prayer)

# My Prayer

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:12-13)





My

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.  
And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your  
heart. (Jeremiah 29:12-13)





