



9 – 15 Sep, 2018

The Cross

**‘But God demonstrates His own love toward us,
in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us’**

Romans 5:8

The Cross is the sign of God’s love to us

- † **Saint Paul concisely describes the Cross as being part of a much larger love story being told by the whole Bible. It is not an isolated event in salvation history (1 Cor 15:3-4)**
- † **The Cross reveals the greatest act of love which is God’s love to us**
- † **Christ accepted to die the most shameful death in order to pay for the trespasses of all humanity and to offer Eternal Life to all who are willing to believe in Him**
- † **Christ through the Cross restored paradise to humankind**
- † **With repentance, each one of us can say that Christ on the Cross crucified one’s own sins**

The cross is the sign of our discipleship to Christ

(Luk 9: 23-27; Mat 10:38-39)

- † **Jesus said: *‘Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me’ (Luk 9:23)***
- † **Carrying the cross in our lives does not represent the difficulties we have**
- † **Carrying one’s own cross means**
 1. **wanting to die to our sins on a daily basis; it is**
 - **a struggle to reach salvation**
 - **dying to self, which is dying to everything in us that is not from Him: selfish pride, self-centeredness, self-interest, self-sufficiency, self-dependence, self-ambition, and self-exaltation**
 2. **having a continuous commitment to faith in and obedience to Christ**
 3. **putting Christ before all (Mat 10:34-37)**
 4. **living Christ as the Way. *‘And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me’ (Mat 10:38; Luk 9:57-62)***
 5. **Carrying our cross is about others too; it is to**
 - **testify for Christ**
 - **help others to reach salvation**
 - **be willing to die for others**
- † **Just as the Resurrection became possible after the Cross, so will great glory result when we carry our cross to the point where we can say like**

Paul that 'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me' (Gal 2:20)

The language of the Cross reveals the power of the Cross (1 Cor 1:18-31)

- † The language of the Cross concerns God's relationship with the world
- † Paul calls the crucified Christ as God's Power and Wisdom
- † The Cross paved the way for us back to paradise, when Jesus was lifted on the Cross, He was lifting us to God
- † Paul emphasizes a point that Jesus often made about God's way of thinking which is the opposite of the world's way
 1. God offers Eternal Life, which the world can never give. We can spend a lifetime accumulating human wisdom and yet never learn how to have a personal relationship with God. We must come to the crucified and risen Christ to receive Eternal Life and the joy of a personal relationship with our Savior
 2. The message of Christ's death for sins sounds foolish to those who do not believe. Death seems to be the end of the road, the ultimate weakness. But Jesus did not stay dead. His Resurrection demonstrated His power even over death
 3. Knowing Christ personally is the greatest wisdom anyone can have
 4. In following Christ, we are called to be 'counter-cultural', the way He was, and to stand in the face of what cultural trends tell us to do: smoking, getting drunk, having pre-marital sex, listening to bad music, ignoring and dishonoring our parents, deviation in sex as homosexuality, etc ...

The story of how the name of CrossTalk is related to the language of the Cross

- † The role of the Holy Spirit in the guidance towards this name
- † The Cross is at the heart of the Christian faith and is what distinguishes Christianity from other religions. The Cross is at the heart of CrossTalk's decisions, teachings and way of seeking God's will
- † Other religions are marked by a religious leader, no religious leader in any of the other religions ever died for his followers. Jesus died for us because He is not a religious leader, He is God Incarnate who came to save us and not just to give us religious teachings and commandments

Saint Helena and the Cross

- † Saint Ambrose preached that when Saint Helena found the true cross in Jerusalem around 325 AD, 'she worshiped not the wood, but the King, Him who hung on the wood. She burned with an earnest desire of touching the guarantee of immortality'

The shape of the Cross

- † The everlasting symbol of Christianity: the vertical dimension of the Cross in its outreach to God and the horizontal dimension towards other people

Bibliography

1. *Life Application Study Bible KJV* (Tyndale House Publishers, Illinois , 2007), Kindle Edition
2. *NKJV, Know The Word Study Bible, Gain a greater understanding of the Bible book by book, verse by verse, or topic by topic* (copyright Thomas Nelson, 1982) Kindle Edition, 2016
3. *The Orthodox Study Bible: Ancient Christianity Speaks to Today's World* (For the Old Testament text copyright of St Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology, 2008 and for the New Testament text the NKJV, copyright Thomas Nelson, 1982), Kindle Edition, 2008

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God' 1 Corinthians 1:18

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Armenian Catholic Church in prayer

قانون الايمان
نؤمن بالله واحد
اب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والارض
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
ويرب واحد يسوع المسيح
ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الاب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق
مساو للاب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء
وتجسد بالروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
وصار إنساناً
وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
وتألم ومات وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الأب
وسياتي أيضاً بمجد عظيم
ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لمملكه
وبالروح القدس
الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الأب والإبن
الذي هو مع الأب والإبن
يُسجد له ويُمجد
الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
وننتظر قيامة الأموات والحياة في الدهر الآتي
أمين

الصلاة الربانية

أبانا الذي في السموات
ليبتدس اسمك
ليأت ملكوتك
ليتك مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا
واغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا
كما نحن نغفر
لمن أخطأ وأساء إلينا
ولا تدخلنا في التجارب
لكن نجنا من الشرير
أمين