



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 19:17-30
Part 3: The Perplexity and Wonder of the Cross

Read *John 19:17-20*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Camping on these same crucifixion verses from John 19, we continue in our bonus sermons exploring the doctrines of the cross. To most of the world (and, now, sadly most of the Church), the cross makes no sense. While they may view Christ as an example of goodness, they reject that the cross was His purpose in coming all along. And it's no surprise to us that they feel that way. Once you reject the inerrancy of Scripture, you inevitably miss the holiness of God and the utter sinfulness of man. Once those core doctrines are dismissed, you inescapably view the cross as unnecessary.

1. How does most of the world and Church view Jesus' death on the cross? Various answers. Sad. Tragedy. Meaningless. Jesus was the victim. He could have been King if He had lived.

1a. If the world sees Jesus as victim, what then must be assigned to the crime? A villain. Historically, this has fueled even more animosity toward the Jews, as so many blame them alone for rejecting Messiah.

[Note: Even our Reformed Church brethren fall into this = God is forever done with Jews for rejecting Jesus and there is no place for future Israel in God's plan. Therefore, they assign all prophetic scripture regarding the end times to allegory and "replacement theology".]

2. What did Jesus Himself state was His purpose in coming? Ruling and reigning or service and suffering? See also *John 12:27* and *2 Corinthians 5:21*. Jesus made it clear that His 1st Coming purpose was to go to the cross on behalf of the elect. This was the only way God could reconcile sinful man to Himself. He remains just and He who justifies. See *Romans 3:23-26*

3. Despite having the detailed prophecy, what had the nation and leaders missed about Jesus' birth? 1) the Daniel timeline that Messiah was coming. 2) That He would be a Nazarene. 3) That He would be born in the city of David—Bethlehem. Even the Scribes didn't travel down there to check it out. 4) That He would be born of a virgin and both parents were from the line of David/Judah.

3a. What detailed prophecies did the possess concerning His death? 1) Again, the Daniel timeline showing the exact date the Messiah would die. 2) He would come as suffering servant (*Isaiah 53*). 3) the type of death He would endure (the cross/*Psalm 22*). 4) That His own people would reject Him.

3b. How is the modern church falling into the same trap? Various answers. Ignoring the difficult Scriptures and focusing on "Your Best Life Now". Seeking human remedies (programs and laws) for the woes and darkness of the world. Desperately trying to stop the events of Revelation. Making end-times prophecy out to be allegory and purely symbolic. See *2 Peter 3:3-4*

4. How can we avoid this same historical, human mistake? Various answers. Know the Scriptures. Trust the Scriptures. Taking a firm stand that all will come to pass. All we can do is preach and witness.

5. Groups like the Roman Catholics really just repackaged ancient Judaism and put Jesus on the label. Discuss. However, from Sunday, what did the cross change? Our relationship to the Law. The end of ceremony, diet laws, and holidays. But also—and more importantly—our sin debt. See also *Galatians 3:13* & *Colossians 2:14-15*