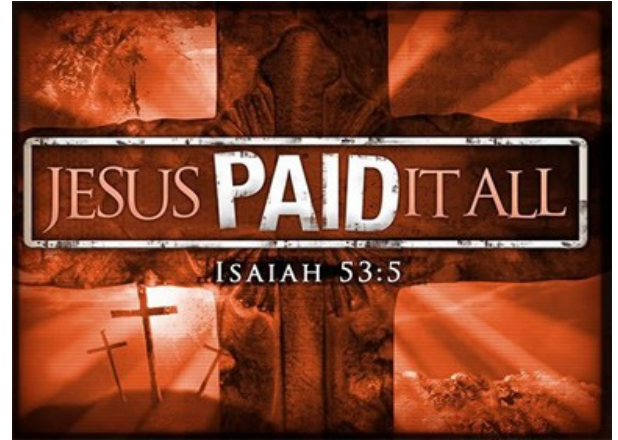




Newsletter Article - April 2011

The Cross “Speaks”

Before He came along, I was nothing: **a wooden cross designed for the worst criminals and fugitives**. I was used by the Roman government to enforce and inflict the harshest punishment of them all. The Romans delighted themselves in capital punishment, they wanted to strip people of all dignity and any type of honor one might have. They wanted humans to suffer. Execution by crucifixion was the worst and most severe indignation. Mocking, flogging, and being spat upon were three punishments reserved for the vilest persons, but still He came. After being beaten and taunted by so many, in every form of physical and verbal abuse unimagined, He came to me.



Being strip of his garments, blood running down his face and neck, He came to me. Being dragged around and forced to display the execution in the city streets, He came. The physical journey of Jesus was not easy, and yet when fastened to me and the cross beams, he carried me to the place of the actual death, Golgotha’s hill (the place of a skull), where he would be crowned with thorns. **Did you know He was crucified not on a green hill faraway but at a very busy intersection for public display?** Being outstretched forced him to carry the primary weight on his body. The pressure caused trauma on his chest, lungs, and was making breathing difficult, and yet he spoke. So they proceeded to ridicule him, hurl rocks, and pound the nails through his hand. He was hoisted on me vertically so that he could die an agonizing death.

Many of you do not like hearing the real truth about what happen because it is indeed hard for the mind to conceive that God’s creation could be so cruel to God Himself. Jesus made a commitment for you to endure it all, to take on your sinful punishment and reconcile you back to God, for you were messed up. You can learn a lot from me today. **The cross is at the heart of our faith.** It is the central part of what we stand for. It is the only reason that we can gather as a community of faith.

1. Does the cross remind you and bring you to your knees in thankfulness?
2. Does the cross free you from guilt but cause you to stand for God?
3. Does the cross cause you to die daily to yourself letting Christ Jesus live in you.

I dare you to surrender to Jesus Christ,
Pastor