

## The Cross of Jesus Christ

Pastor Kelly Sensenig

One day a man was walking down the sidewalk in an overseas land. He was selling all kinds of articles that the tourists of the area could buy. This particular day he happened to have several wooden and metal crosses that people were purchasing as souvenirs. He began yelling out to the people, "Crosses, crosses, who will buy my cheap crosses?" A missionary standing by stopped the man and said to him, "Old man, did you know that the cross of Christ was not cheap. It was on the cross that Jesus died for you, bearing your own guilt and sin, so that you might be saved from eternal damnation and Hell."

Friend, the cross of Jesus is not cheap in any sense of the word. It was on the cross where our salvation was won.

A.J. Gossip said:

"Get the people in the sight of Calvary. Pause there... hushed and reverent; enable them to look, to see it, make it real to them, not just an old tale that has lost its wonder and its stab, but a tremendous awful fact."

I'd like to give a summary of the importance of the cross in this study. The cross of Jesus Christ is the central message of Christianity. But what does the cross mean? How does it relate to our lives today? A man once asked me, "How can the death of a man on a cross some 2,000 years ago have any meaning or significance to me today?" I am going to answer this question in this study. This man, who suffered and died on the cross, was the man Christ Jesus, the Son of God (God incarnate, God Himself) who came to set us free from sin's penalty and Satan's power.

1 Timothy 2:5 declares:

"For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

Jesus was no ordinary man, He was the God-man who bridged the gap between sinners and God! He was the only mediator that could bring us into an acceptable

position before a holy and righteous God and grant us forgiveness, justification, and salvation. This mediating work occurred through the cross.

The cross is the most important event in the history of mankind. This is revealed to us in 5 ways.

### **1. The Cross was a Selected Plan**

Revelation 13:8 speaks of “the Lamb (Jesus Christ) slain from the foundation of the world.” In other words, the cross, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, was preplanned by God in eternity past. The cross was in the mind and plan of God long before the world was even framed or created. The cross was not an afterthought with God! In the counsel of the Godhead, it was purposed and planned before any of us were ever here! In other words, the cross was something that was part of the eternal plan of God. It’s the focus of the ages of eternity. It was something that was going to happen for God planned and purposed it to happen.

Acts 2:23

“Him (Jesus Christ), being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”

Everything about the cross was selected, planned, and prearranged. God’s foreknown or preordained purpose was to bring about the cross and this is why it took place! It happened because God wanted it to happen! Let us never forget this! Jesus Christ was the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world.

This reminds us that if God had not ordained the cross to happen, then none of us would be able to be saved or delivered from the judgment for our sins. But thanks be to God, He is not only a just and righteous God, but also a merciful and gracious God. Therefore, in eternity past He planned to bring about the cross, the sacrifice of His own Son, and the plan of salvation.

“His grace has planned it all  
'Tis mine but to believe  
And recognize His work of love  
And Christ receive.”

## 2. The Cross was at a Specific Place

John 19:17

“And he (Jesus Christ) bearing his cross went forth into a place called *the place* of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha.”

The concept of carrying (bearing) his cross fulfill two Old Testament symbols or pictures. Isaac carried his own wood for the sacrifice (Gen. 22:1–6) and the sin offering was taken or carried outside the camp or city of Jerusalem.

The book of Hebrews 13:11-13 brings out this truth:

“For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.”

Jesus carried His own cross upon which He was to die! He carried His cross with you in His mind! And He died on a hill outside the city of Jerusalem. The Bible says he came to “a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha.” This was a specific place. Golgotha (of Aramaic origin) was probably called this because the hill with its stony barren top looked like a skull. Many believe that Jesus was crucified on a hill that resembled a skull. Such a site called “Gordon’s Calvary” is known in Israel today.

Luke 23:33 adds some similar information on the place of the cross:

“And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him.”

The place of the execution of Jesus Christ was called Calvary (from the Latin meaning cranium or skull). Many believe the configuration of the land resembled a skull. Others suggest it was so named because it was the place of death, and a skull is often used as a symbol of death. The old hymn speaks of the specific place of the cross when it says:

“On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suff’ring and shame,  
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

“O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary.”

The point is this, Golgotha or Calvary (the place of the skull) was a specific place that God ordained where His Son would die. God had chosen this specific place where Jesus was hand on the cross and die for the sins of mankind. In reflecting on Calvary, someone wrote:

“I believe in a hill called mount calvary  
I believe whatever the cost  
And when time has surrendered  
And earth is no more  
I'll still cling to the old rugged cross!”

### **3. The Cross was a Shameful Process**

The epistle of Hebrews 12:2 reminds us about this:

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

The cross what a shameful ordeal.

- There was the shame of being naked.

Luke 23:34

“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.”

While Jesus absorbed all our sin and wrongdoing, He also absorbed all of our shame! Jesus was crucified naked. We must not forget the great humiliation He suffered by hanging on the cross without clothing. They had taken His garments and gambled for ownership of them. My friend, Jesus went through it all, crucified unclothed, that we might be clothed with His righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21), so we can possess a standing before God, without shame, throughout the endless ages of eternity.

“I thank God for Calvary,  
For it’s the blood that sets me free.  
He bore my shame, O praise His name  
I’ve never been the same!  
Since I came to Calvary!

- There was the shame of being mocked.

Matthew 27:29

“And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put *it* upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!”

- There was the shame of being spit upon.

Mark 15:19

“And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing *their* knees worshipped him.”

- There was the shame of being beaten and disfigured.

Jesus was beaten by a reed (Matt. 27:39). The Bible teaches that Jesus was beaten beyond recognition. His disfigurement was a ghastly site.

Isaiah 52:14 prophetically declared this of the Messiah:

“As many were astonished (astonished or amazed) at thee; his visage (facial appearance) was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.”

- There was the shame of being made sin for us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 declares:

“For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

There on the cross, Jesus Christ was made sin for us in a judicial or legal sense. He was legally judged in our place, as a sinner would be judged, even though He remained completely pure in His essential nature and being as the eternal God for the Bible teaches that Jesus “through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God” (Heb. 9:14).

"See how the patient Jesus stands,  
Insulted in His lowest case!  
Sinners have bound the Almighty's hands,  
And spit in their Creator's face.

With thorns His temples gor'd and gash'd  
Send streams of blood from every part;  
His back's with knotted scourges lash'd.  
But sharper scourges tear His heart."

#### **4. The Cross was designed for a Sacrificial Purpose**

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.”

Because every person has sinned, transgressed God’s law, and fallen short of God’s moral glory or perfection (Rom. 3:23), a penalty for sin was placed upon all mankind (“the wages of sin is death” – Rom. 6:23). Ultimately, this death means separation from God in Hell. This is why Jesus had to take upon Himself the penalty for our sins while hanging on the cross. The expression “bare” in this Bible verse means “to take up,” “carry” or “to place on oneself a load” which speaks of how Jesus was punished when He carried or took upon Himself our own sins. Jesus was the offering that God

required for our sins, to bear the punishment that our sins deserved and remove the guilt and punishment that we deserved for all of our sins.

“OH THE SHAME OF IT,  
MY SINS CRUCIFIED HIM THAT DAY,  
MY SINS WERE TO BLAME,  
OH FORGIVE THEM LORD HE PRAYED!”

On the cross, Jesus became the sacrifice that took our place. The sacrificial nature of Christ’s passion involved pain, agony, bloodshed, thirst, separation from the Father, and ultimately physical death. When on the cross, Jesus cried out, “I thirst” (John 10:38). Jesus also experienced great pain and darkness while hanging on the cross (Matt. 27:45). He experienced painful agony from both a physical perspective but also spiritual perspective when He was separated from the Father’s presence.

Mark 15:34 records these words:

“And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

Forsaken! Yes, Jesus suffered the physical and spiritual agonies on the cross which included being forsaken by God the Father. In a word, Jesus took our Hell (the thirst, pain, agony, darkness, separation from the Father) when He suffered and died on the cross for us. And He did it for you and me! All of these things (pain, agony, bloodshed, thirst, separation from the Father, and death) become a summary of what it means when the Bible states, “who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree.” Jesus bore the full weight of sin’s penalty on our behalf, which means He experienced everything associated with sin’s penalty, when He became the sacrifice for our sins and died on the cross.

Beloved, we need to be careful that we do not become numb or insensitive to the great sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for us.

“Have I a heart of stone, So cold and dark within,  
That I can view the Savior, In anguish for my sin,

And never sorrow feel, For all He sacrificed?  
Have I a heart of stone, To watch the bleeding Christ?  
Have I no eyes to see, That I can stand so near,  
And watch the Savior wounded, But never shed a tear?  
Can I but coldly gaze, Upon His painful loss?

Have I no eyes to see, God's Lamb upon the cross?  
As I behold the blood, And view the Crucified,  
The piercing thought o'erwhelms me: Twas for my sin He died.  
Lord make my soul to feel, Thy suffering on the tree.  
Lord, break this heart of stone. Lord make my eyes to see."

Let our hearts be softened and refreshed once again when we reflect on the cross and what Christ has done for us. He was the only sacrifice that the Heavenly Father would accept (Eph. 5:2), that could remove our sins, that could deliver us from Hell, and give us legal acceptance before God's throne for we are "justified by his blood" (Rom. 5:9).

## **5. The Cross was a Successful Program**

The cross is God's program which was instituted and designed to "bring many sons unto glory" (Heb. 2:10). God's program of the cross is a success because it has accomplished great things for you and me who believe or express faith in Jesus Christ.

Consider the successes of the cross.

### **a. A penalty was paid**

Galatians 3:10

"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them."



The “curse of the law” refers to the judgment sentence God’s Law brings against all sinners for breaking it. When we break God’s perfect and righteous law we must pay the penalty of the law which is death, which is ultimately eternal separation from God in Hell. Once again, this is that the Bible means when it states: “The wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). On the cross, Jesus paid our wages, which was the fine that God required for sin and the fine we should have paid with our own suffering and death in hell.

Galatians 3:13 goes on to say:

“Christ hath redeemed (set us free) us from the curse of the law (this penalty that we deserve for breaking God’s holy Law), being made a curse for us (becoming the penalty and experiencing the curse of judgment in our place): for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree.”

Jesus hung on the tree of Calvary and was cursed in our place. This means He bore the penalty of judgment in our place, a penalty that we deserved. On the cross, the penalty for all the sins of mankind was paid and God was satisfied with the sacrifice of His own son.

Isaiah 53:11 prophetically declares of the Messiah:

“He (the Father) shall see of the travail of his soul (the Son), *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.”

In bearing the iniquities, Jesus was taking upon Himself the necessary judgment that was necessary for our evil and perverse departures from God’s holy will.

An unknown author said:

“Calvary is not only the place of atonement; it also the place of amazement. Are we so familiar with the cross that we no longer pause to wonder and to worship?”

When we think what took place, while Jesus was hanging on the Cavalry’s cross and died as our sacrifice, our hearts should be stirred to worship the very One who “loved us and gave himself for us” (Gal. 2:20).

If you personally embrace Christ as your Savior, you can know that the penalty for your sin was paid by Christ on the cross and that you will NEVER pay for the penalty of your sins in judgment.

Colossians 2:14

“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.”

The expression of “the handwriting of ordinances that was against us” refers to the broken law of God. It was against us for it did not give us the power to live according to God’s righteous standards and then condemned us to separation from God. The wonderful thing is this. Jesus died on the cross to REMOVE this sentence of judgment that was against us so that we do not have to face God’s righteous wrath. The Bible says that on the cross, Jesus “took it out of the way” (this sentence of judgment) by having it “nailed to his cross” which means that the sentence was removed and we are no longer obligated to incur God’s wrath and judgment.

The Bible says that “we shall be saved from wrath through him” (Rom. 5:9). This means we are set free or delivered from sin’s penalty or God’s righteous wrath and judgment (John 3:17-18). The believing sinner can now sing:

“I’m free from the fear of tomorrow,  
I’m free from the guilt of the past  
For I’ve traded all my shackles for a glorious song,  
I’m free, praise the Lord free at last!”

#### **b. A Pardon was granted**

Based upon the penalty for our sins being paid, we are granted forgiveness of sins and therefore acceptance before God.

Ephesians 1:7 declares:

“In whom we have redemption through his blood (Christ’s sacrifice on the cross), the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”

Colossians 1:14 also states:

“In whom we have redemption through his blood (Christ’s sacrificial work on the cross), *even* the forgiveness of sins.”

Christ’s sacrificial blood was shed on the cross, which eventually resulted in His own death, and all of this was necessary so that Jesus could pay the fine that God required for our sins, redeem us from sin’s penalty and powerful influence over our lives, and ultimately provide pardon or forgiveness for our sins. Only through the cross (the penalty that Christ paid on our behalf) can we have our sin-stained lives forgiven and be made spiritually whole.

“Jesus paid it all,  
All to him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain  
He washed it white as snow.”

Yes, there is healing forgiveness that can come into our lives through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Isaiah 53:5 prophetically declares:

“But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

Peter confirms this when he states, “by whose stripes ye were healed” (1 Pet. 2:24). Of course, the “healing” of which Isaiah and Peter spoke about is the spiritual healing of the sin-sick soul. It’s a spiritual healing we receive from the malady or spiritual sickness of sin that has inflicted all of us. It points to our total forgiveness of sins before God. What we need is a spiritual healing and this can only come through the forgiveness that is granted through Christ’s blood sacrifice.

The cross upon which Jesus died, on Calvary’s hill, was a successful program instituted by God because on the cross Jesus paid the necessary penalty that we deserved, so we could be forgiven of all our sins and set free (redeemed) from both sin’s penalty and power which once ruled our lives.

“I was guilty with nothing to say  
And they were coming to take me away,  
When a voice from Heaven was heard that said  
"Let him go and take Me instead."

That crowns of thorns, the spear in His side  
And the pain, it should have been mine.  
Those rusty nails were meant for me  
Yet Christ took them and let me go free.”

Oh I should have been crucified  
And I should have suffered and died  
I should have hung on the cross in disgrace  
But Jesus, God's Son, took my place.”

### **c. A Peace was provided**

Colossians 1:20

“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself (both Jews and Gentles who believe on Christ); by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.”

The peace that is provided for the believing sinner through cross, which includes the shedding of His blood, is a peaceful standing that we obtain before God. Upon believing on Christ and His sacrifice to take away our sins and provide us with a righteous standing before God, we are no longer considered a sinner before God, ungodly, and God’s enemy, but instead we are brought into a reconciled and peaceful relationship with God (Rom. 5:6-10). This is the wonder of grace!

Isaiah declared that “the chastisement of our peace was upon him” (Isaiah 53:5). This means that Jesus was punished so that we might have reconciliation and peace with God. The New Testament sheds even more light on this blessed noonday truth.

Romans 5:1-2

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

If you want to be made right before God, accepted in His presence, then embrace the cross. Place your faith alone in Christ alone to give you total forgiveness and acceptance before God forever. What you need before God is a peaceful standing and relationship. This can only come through the cross for it's the cross that grants us the forgiveness of sins and justification (a righteous standing) in God's presence ("justified by his blood" – Rom. 5:9). If you want to be made right before God, accepted in the presence of God, be sure that you are going to Heaven someday, then you must come the way of the cross!

"I must needs go home by the way of the cross,  
There's no other way but this;  
I shall ne'er get sight of the Gates of Light,  
If the way of the cross I miss.  
I must needs go on in the blood-sprinkled way,  
The path that the Savior trod,  
If I ever climb to the heights sublime,  
Where the soul is at home with God.  
The way of the cross leads home,  
The way of the cross leads home;  
It is sweet to know, as I onward go,  
The way of the cross leads home."

Dear friend, you must understand that none of your good works or deeds, your alms, your prayer beads, your baptisms, your masses, your participation with communion, following the Golden Rule, doing your best, or your desire to reform yourself, could ever erase your sinful debt before God and bring your peace and acceptance before Him. It's not what you have done but what Christ has done that saves you and makes you fit for Heaven. It's only through the blood of Jesus Christ (His sacrifice on the cross) that you can be forgiven, be reconciled to God, and have peace before Him. We can only be saved by God's work of grace through the cross of Christ - not by our good works (Eph. 2:8-9).

"For nothing good have I  
Whereby Thy grace to claim;  
I'll wash my garments white  
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb."

#### **d. A power was defeated**

Colossians 2:15

*“And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”*

The “principalities and powers” refer to angelic beings, including Satan, and on the cross Jesus displayed these spiritual forces as a defeated army (“made a show of them openly”). The phrase “triumphing over them in it” means that through the cross, Jesus won the victory over Satan and his emissaries. They were fully displayed as defeated foes who could no longer possess authority and power over God’s children.

Hebrews 2:14-15 also declares:

*“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”*

Yes, the cross was also a successful place because Christ defeated Satan with His sacrifice and death upon the cross. The word “destroy” means to render inoperative, to put out of business, to vanish away, put an end to, render idle and inactive, and make void.” This means Jesus broke the power of Satan over our lives, to keep us under sin’s penalty and bound to his authority and evil hold upon our lives (Eph. 2:1-2). Jesus utterly defeated our greatest enemy when He paid the ultimate sacrifice on the cross. Satan thought He would win when Christ died on the cross but the tables were turned and Satan was defeated. His sacrificial suffering and death on the cross means that we can be released from Satan’s condemning accusations and strongholds upon our life.

The Belgian artist A. J. Wiertz, in his painting entitled "The Triumph of Christ," beautifully portrays the victory Jesus won through His death on the cross. As you look at this famous canvas, you see the Savior hanging in shame on the cross. Yet from the crown of thorns on His head shine beams of heavenly light. Above Him glorious angels sound their trumps while sinister, evil figures flee away into the

darkness. These evil figures depict the victory that Jesus had over the devil and demons when He died upon the cross. Yes, the cross resulted in our spiritual deliverance from the strongholds of Satan and his emissaries. The cross has made the difference in the lives of every one who has believed.

“And the old rugged cross made the difference  
In a life bound for heartache and defeat;  
I will praise Him forever and ever  
For the cross made the difference for me!”

It will make the difference in your life as well if you express personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Savior.

Galatians 6:14 says:

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

To glory in the cross means to rejoice in what Christ has done for you upon the cross. It means to boast in a good sense about what Christ has accomplished for you through His sacrificial blood and death. We will glory in the cross as we revel or rejoice in the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. We will stand by the cross and ponder its display of amazing grace.

“In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.”

We were the sinful wrecks of time who were headed toward an eternal Hell without any hope. And it was the cross that towered above all the debris or sinful wreckage of lost humanity. This is because Jesus died upon the cross to put our spiritually wrecked lives back together through His provision of salvation and new life.

In a small Oriental town several men were working on a scaffold high above the street. Suddenly one of them lost his footing and fell to the pavement below.

Horrified, his companions quickly descended, expecting to find his body broken and mangled. To their surprise they discovered that their friend was unhurt! At the exact moment of his fall some sheep were passing through the street beneath him, and he had landed on the back of one of the animals. There it lay, crushed and dead, but the man was saved. As he gazed upon that lifeless creature, he was heard to say, "It died for me!"

Dear friend, Jesus died for you! Jesus was the "lamb of God" (John 1:29) who came to take away your sins and rescue you from Hell.

"It's still the cross,  
It's still the blood,  
It's still His dying act of love!"

Are you ready to embrace the cross of Jesus Christ? Are you ready to express personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, which means to express faith in what Christ did for you on the cross to grant you forgiveness of sins, acceptance and peace before God, and salvation you from Hell?

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."

Dear friend, the cross can make the difference in your life today. Right now you can express personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. You can express faith in His death on the cross and resurrection from the grave, to give you forgiveness, peace before God, and eternal life in Heaven.

Ephesians 2:8 declares:

"For by grace (Christ's work on the cross) are ye saved through faith (faith in Christ); and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God."

The cross cannot have a spiritual impact on your life until you express faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, His saving work on the cross. Through personal faith in Christ, the spiritual benefits of the cross are transferred to you and your record in Heaven is



changed. You are taken out of the category of an unforgiven sinner, an unrighteous person, the enemy of God, a hell-bound lost soul, and are placed in the category of the forgiven, redeemed, and justified, obtaining a peaceful record before God.

Romans 10:13

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

When you express faith in Christ, calling upon Him to save you, it's then that you will receive forgiveness, peace before God, be saved from Hell, given eternal life, and possess the assurance of going to Heaven when you die. You must express faith. You must make the call. You must come to the cross and express faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. “Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Rev. 22:17). The “water of life” is referring to the refreshing, life-changing offer, and free gift of salvation. Friend, there is room at the cross for you!

“The cross upon which Jesus died  
Is a shelter in which we can hide  
And its grace so free is sufficient for me  
And deep is its fountain as wide as the sea.

Though millions have found him a friend  
And have turned from the sins they have sinned  
The Savior still waits to open the gates  
And welcome a sinner before it's too late.

There's room at the cross for you  
There's room at the cross for you  
Though millions have come, there's still room for one  
Yes there's room at the cross for you.”

Are you ready to express faith in Christ and His saving work on the cross? Do you want to receive the spiritual blessings that flow from the Christ's work on the cross? If so, you can express personal faith in Christ right now and receive salvation, peace before God, and eternal life in Heaven. Expressing faith in Christ (His work on the cross) is not some type of psychological trick. It is not a gimmick to get you into a church. It's the way to get to Heaven!

Below is a prayer that may help you express personal faith in Christ. Pray it in your own heart with understanding and sincerity and God will save you.

“Dear Heavenly Father, I know that I am a sinner in need of the cross. I believe that Your Son, Jesus Christ, suffered, shed His blood, and died on the cross for me, and that He rose from the dead to give me salvation from Hell, acceptance in Your presence, and eternal life in Heaven. I embrace the cross of Christ by faith. I am transferring my faith in Jesus to be my Savior. I place my full confidence in Christ’s work on the cross and His resurrection to forgive me, save me, and grant me eternal life in Heaven. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

If you have expressed personal faith in Christ, please let us know. You can contact us through the church website ([www.bereaninternetministry.org](http://www.bereaninternetministry.org)).