

# THE CARPENTER AND THE CROSS

THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT JESUS WAS A CARPENTER, Mk.6:1-3

Until Jesus began His ministry at 30 years of age, He helped support His family as a carpenter. For all the years that He was a carpenter, Jesus made many things out of wood: probably chairs, doors, tables, benches, etc. Jesus learned how to select the right piece of wood to make something, how to cut it, drill it, etc. But at the end of His life, Jesus the carpenter used two pieces of wood to make the great masterpiece of His work on earth- THE CROSS!

What kind of wood was the cross made of? We do not know! It was unknown & unimportant! BUT today the cross of Jesus Christ is the most famous piece of wood in the history of the world!

The people of Jerusalem saw the cross as two simple pieces of wood that were thrown away soon after their use! BUT Jesus saw that His work with the cross would benefit every believer for all eternity!

The Roman soldiers that crucified Christ saw the cross as a place of execution and death- BUT believers around the world now see the cross as a place of eternal life!

The cross of Christ is seen by many people to be the place of Christ's weakness- BUT the cross of Christ has been revealed by God to be the place of the great power of God!

The People of this world see the cross as a shame, a sorrowful thing- BUT to the Christian believer, the cross is our greatest joy! The cross is the focus to a million songs of praise!

Jesus made many things out of wood – but spiritually speaking, what did Christ make out of the cross?

4 THINGS THAT THE MASTER CARPENTER BUILT FROM THE CROSS:

1) A BALANCE 2) A COFFIN 3) A DOOR 4) A THRONE

# 1) A BALANCE is used to weigh two things, to make them balanced or equal.

What did Christ weigh & make equal with the cross? The Justice and Mercy of God!

A. The justice of God: God is holy, pure and just,  
"There is no one righteous, no, not one" (Rom.3:10)  
"All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"(Rom.3:23)

We are all sinners, and a holy God must punish sin!

"The wages of sin is death" (Rom.6:23)

"The soul that sins shall die" (Ez.18:4)

The weight of our sin can cast every person down to hell!

Only one thing can deliver us from hell- only one thing can deliver us from the judgement of God- it is the mercy of God.

The mercy of God, the love & forgiveness of God!

"The Lord is longsuffering toward us, and is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet.3:9) ... "For God so loved the world that He gave His only son...."

The justice of God wants to cast us down to hell, but the mercy of God wants to lift us to heaven!

ON THE CROSS Jesus brought together the justice & mercy of God. Christ made the cross to become a balance (timbangan) to balance the justice & mercy of God.

When Christ hung on the cross, God was revealing the punishment for sin, BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD...MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? Christ took the punishment for our sins!

When Christ hung on the cross, He was revealing the mercy of God  
"FATHER FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING"

We can see the balance of the cross with the 2 thieves that died on the right & left side of Jesus

One thief was repentant, and looked to Christ for mercy- Jesus told him, "Today you will be with me in paradise!"

The other thief remained in his sins- and when he died that day, he went to hell!

The 1st thing that Christ made from the cross was a balance so that we can stand forgiven before a Holy God. by the sacrifice of Christ we can be washed from all our sins by the blood of Christ the Lamb of God

# 2) THE SECOND THING THAT CHRIST MADE OUT OF HIS CROSS, WAS A COFFIN!

Jesus Christ did not make the cross to become a coffin for himself- He is risen from the dead and is alive forevermore!

The cross became a coffin to bury our sins! A coffin to bury our sinful nature,

Rom.6:7,11-12 our old nature is buried with Christ in His death

God has broken the power of sin for every believer (do YOU believe?).  
The O.T. commands can become the N.T. promises! Christ has broken the power of sin when He died on the cross

For everyone who believes in Jesus Christ, His cross becomes a coffin where all our sins are buried! Gal.3:20 "I am crucified with Christ..."

# 3) A DOOR - THE 3<sup>rd</sup> THING THAT CHRIST MADE OUT OF HIS CROSS, WAS A DOOR!

Christ made a door out of the cross, TO OPEN HEAVEN FOR US

A. An open door to heaven, for when we die  
Example: Thief on cross... "Today you will be with Me in paradise"

B. An open door to heaven Ephesians 2:6. We can live in heavenly places NOW! We don't have to be "under" burdens, difficulties, problems...  
WE CAN BE OVER OUR PROBLEMS! OVERCOMERS! IN HEAVENLY PLACES!

# 4) A THRONE- THE 4<sup>th</sup> THING THAT CHRIST MADE OUT OF HIS CROSS WAS A THRONE

A. A THRONE WHERE CHRIST RULES AS THE KING OF KINGS, Heb.12:2 "For the joy before Him, Jesus endured the cross, and is set down at the throne of God"... the cross brought Christ to a throne! PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

"ALL POWER IS GIVEN...", "I HOLD THE KEYS OF HELL AND DEATH..."

B. A THRONE GIVEN TO US where we can reign with Christ

1) Reign in life, Rom. 5:17. We can live victorious in this life, sharing in the victory of Christ!

2) We can also reign in the coming Kingdom of God, Rev.3:21, Mat.19:27-28.

In the coming Millennial kingdom of Christ many victorious Christians will sit on thrones,  
Rev.20:4

HAS THE CROSS BECOME A BALANCE TO WEIGH YOUR SINS? A BALANCE THROUGH WHICH GOD CAN SHOW YOU HIS GRACE & MERCY?

HAS THE CROSS BECOME A COFFIN, TO BURY & REMOVE ALL YOUR SINS?

HAS THE CROSS BECOME A DOOR, TO GIVE YOU ACCESS TO HEAVEN?

HAS THE CROSS BECOME A THRONE, FOR YOU TO BECOME A KING OR QUEEN IN GOD'S KINGDOM?