

The Cross Of Many Colors

Galatians 6:14

Introduction

1. Joseph's coat of many colors is very famous.
2. Jesus' cross of many colors should be just as famous.
3. We can see the following colors with a closer look at the cross of Christ.

I. The Cross Of Christ Was Black — Because Sin Nailed Him There.

- A. Darkness settled over the land at Jesus' death. "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour (Matthew 27:45).
 1. "Night With Ebon Pinion" is a song which refers to the darkness of that event.
 2. In many ways (literally and figuratively) Jesus' death was dark.
- B. Notice the repetitious emphasis in Scripture that sin made the cross a necessity?
 1. Isaiah 53:5, 6, 8, 10, 12
 2. "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28).
 3. "[Christ] was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification" (Romans 4:25).
 4. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8).
 5. "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" (1 Peter 2:24).
- C. Sin needs to be seen for what it is and what it caused.

II. The Cross Of Christ Was White — Because He Was Perfect.

- A. Jesus died as the perfect, pure, innocent sacrifice (Isaiah 53:9, 10; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- B. There are five primary attributes of God (holiness, justice, mercy, love, and truth).
 1. When man sinned, God's holiness was offended.
 2. God's justice demanded payment for man's infraction of the law.
 3. God's mercy triumphed over justice.
 4. Because of love, God sent His Son.
 5. Concerning all of this, we read in the truth.

III. The Cross Of Christ Was Red — Because He Shed His Blood There.

- A. In the scheme of redemption, there has always been efficacy attached to blood (Genesis 4:1-8; Exodus 12:1-13; Hebrews 9:16-22).
- B. Because of His shed blood, we have been redeemed (Ephesians 1:7).
- C. We are the Lord's— He created us (Acts 17:26) and He bought us (I Corinthians 6:19, 20).

IV. The Cross Of Christ Was Gold — Because Love Made It A Reality.

- A. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)
- B. "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots" (Luke 23:34).

The Description of Crucifixion

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What is crucifixion? A medical doctor provides a physical description: The cross is placed on the ground, and the exhausted man is quickly thrown backwards with his shoulders against the wood. The legionnaire feels for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drives a heavy square wrought-iron nail through the wrist and deep into the wood. Quickly he moves to the other side and repeats the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly but to allow some flex and movement. The cross is then lifted into place.

The left foot is pressed backward against the right foot, and with the both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of each, leaving the knees flexed. The victim is now crucified. As he slowly sags down with more weight on the nails in the wrists, excruciating, fiery pain shoots along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain—the nails in the wrists are putting pressure on the median nerves. As he pushes himself upward to avoid stretching torment, he places the full weight on the nail through his feet. Again he feels the searing agony of the nail tearing through the nerves between the bones of the feet.

As the arms fatigue, cramps sweep through the muscles, knotting them in deep, relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability to push himself upward to breathe. Air can be drawn into the lungs but not exhaled. He fights to raise himself in order to get even one small breath. Finally carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream, and the cramps partially subside. Spasmodically he is able to push himself upward to exhale and bring in life-giving oxygen.

Hours of this limitless pain, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain as tissue is torn from his lacerated back as he moves up and down the rough timber. Then another agony begins: a deep, crushing pain deep in the chest as the pericardium slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the heart.

It is now almost over—the loss of tissue fluids reaches a critical level—the compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood into the tissues—the tortured lungs are making a frantic effort to gasp in small gulps of air.

He can feel the chill of death creeping through his tissues—finally he can allow his body to die. All this the Bible records with the simple words, "And they crucified him" (Mark 15:24).

The Expositor's Bible Commentary