

# Celebration of the Cross

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH  
Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania  
APRIL 13, 2017

Welcome & Prayer

Mark 15:1-14

#338 - At Calvary

Special Music: Long Ago

#189 - Calvary Covers It All

Mark 15:15-22

Thinking Of The Cross - Lois Swoyer

#178 - O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Mark 15:23-32

Special Music: Man On The Middle Cross

#185 - When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Psalms 22:1-19

Thinking Of The Cross - Kathleen Aldin

#186 - The Old Rugged Cross

Mark 15:33-39

Thinking Of The Cross - Jerome Mitchell

Special Music - Hallelujah For The Cross

"Why The Cross?" - Pastor Hole

#203 - And Can It Be?

Prayer

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH  
SERMON NOTES - PASTOR MERRITT K. HOLE - 04/13/17 - C.S.

## "Why The Cross?"

John 19:17-18

INTRO: Begun by Darius, a Persian king, in 519 B.C. and terminated by Constantine in 337 A.D., the cross was one of the most incredible tools of capital punishment for enemies and criminals. It caused excruciating (ex=from, cruc=cross) pain, slowly but surely ending the life of the one placed upon it. What Persia began, Rome perfected. But why was Jesus placed on one?

I. THE PLAN - Re. 13:8; 1 Pt. 1:20; Acts 2:23, 4:27-28

II. THE PROPHECIES - Ps. 22:1-21 (500 yrs.); Is. 53:4-6 (200 yrs.); Zc. 12:10; Mt. 26:54

III. THE PROCLAMATIONS - Mt. 20:17-19; 26:2; Jn. 1:29

IV. THE POPULAR DEMAND - Mk. 15:12-15; Lk. 23:13-23

V. THE PLACE OF PARDON - 1 Co. 15:34; 2 Co. 5:21; 1 Pt. 2:24

VI. THE PREACHING PRIORITY - 1 Co. 2:2; 1:18, 22-24

VII. THE PURSUIT - Lk. 9:23; 14:27; Ga. 2:20; 5:24

VIII. THE PRIVILEGE - John 14:1-3; 17:24; Ro. 8:17; He. 9:28

CONCL: Brutal, unforgiving, and lethal, the cross stands prominent in the Scriptures and in time. The cross divides time, with all that went before leading to it, and all that comes after looking back on it. It is also the dividing line between Heaven and Hell. All who embrace it will live forever with Jesus in Heaven and eventually the New Heavens and New Earth. All who reject it will need to pay for their own sins throughout eternity in Hell. On which side of the cross are you?!

**Hear this message again at [mbcss.org/sermons.html](http://mbcss.org/sermons.html)**