

The Cross on the Hill

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“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” -1 Cor. 1:18

Can the cross really be an offense? Can people really be upset by it? Yes, but its true meaning can only be seen when we strip away our personal opinions and past offenses. These will only re-translate truth into lower forms.

Jesus was crucified on the cross for the sake of our offenses. The word, “offense” in Greek is “*scandalon*.” He pinned our sins to the cross until it became a “scandal of faith.” Still today, Jesus invites us to bring our scandals and offenses to the cross, but it is not a cross that will resolve those sins. It is forgiven and resolved by the One Who died on a cross and was raised from the dead on our behalf. We must come to Him!

So, why did God, in His eternal wisdom, choose for His Son to bear a cross?

1. *When Jesus bore the cross...*
He was a victim of **government injustice**, yet through the cross, He has transformed nations and leaders of countries.
2. *When Jesus bore the cross ...*
He was the target of **religious discrimination**, yet He said, “*Father forgive them.*”
3. *When Jesus bore the cross ...*
He was the **object of hatred**, yet God so loved the world, He sacrificed His only Son.
4. *When Jesus bore the cross ...*
He was the focus of **police brutality**, yet the cross remains as a symbol of mercy and compassion.
5. *When Jesus bore the cross ...*
He was **taunted and bullied** by the crowds, yet He bore the cross so that all people may come to Him and be saved.

So, what is the cross?

- The cross is a reminder of His enduring mercy in spite of our hatred.
- It is an abiding message of His sacrifice, and that through Him, we can receive grace and not judgment.

People may defile the cross. They may assign inferior meaning to it, but yet it stands throughout the ages for one reason, and for one reason alone:

The cross is the power of God that overcame human hate and prejudice, and for this, we are grateful.

Here at New Hope Christian College, we honor the work of Jesus Christ on the cross for us. We are not ashamed of Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation. Regardless of what the world may say, we remain steadfast in what the Scriptures record. The bible is our proof! While some may debase the cross, we have chosen to thank God for it, and for us who are saved, it will always be the Power of God!

The cross on our hill is all about a cross on another hill... not a hill in Eugene, Oregon. Our cross points to a hill that is just outside the city of Jerusalem. That hill is called Golgotha. That is where our cross looks to, and to the One who so loved the world that He gave His forgiveness instead of judgment.



*On a hill far away,
stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame.
And I love that old cross, where the dearest
and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain
So, I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*