

Easter 2012
"For God's Sake People!"

For God's sake... we are going to take a look at the Cross!

The Cross... *It was the worst, most painful, method of torture and death for its time!* It included the scourging... The worst of the worst were required to carry their cross as insult to injury... It was a drawn out process, usually taking two days+ to die... Then usually buried in a mass grave!

That gives new meaning to the crowds crying out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" It brings new definition to the spiritual component driving the call for His death! Where is honesty, justice... common compassion and decency?

The Cross... *It had to be the worst because God was laying on Him, the worst in us all!* "He bore our grief's, and carried our sorrows and we thought He was being punished by God, but He was tormented for our sins, bruised for our iniquities, the chastening for our peace was on Him and by His stripes we were healed.... The Lord made the *sins of us all to meet on Him!*" **Isaiah 53.1-12** "For God made him *to be sin for us*, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." **2Cor 5.21** "Christ was able to redeem us from the curse of the law because *He was made a curse for us!* **Gal 3.13**

"What the law couldn't do for us, *pay for sin*, He did for us!" **Rom 8.3**

One sinless man satisfied the price for all sinful humanity!

The Cross... *Now stands EMPTY because the worst couldn't hold the Best!* He is the propitiation; the payment, the one who made amends for our sin! **1John 2.2, 4.10!** "Sinless, death and the grave couldn't hold Him... He was the price paid, the price accepted... the sting of death has been forever removed... the shame of the Cross has forever been done away with!"

The devil didn't beat Him and can't win against us!

The Cross... *Now stands EMPTY... as proof of our freedom!* "I am crucified with Christ yet alive, but the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me!" **Gal 2.20** "Dead with Him, I am no longer the servant of sin... but the servant of righteousness, a servant of God with holiness and everlasting life!" **Rom 6.6-22** "Having been dead in sins, we are now quickened with him, being forgiven of all trespasses; wiping out the record of our sins standing against us, He took it and nailed it to his cross..." **Col 2.13,14** "And I glory in the cross, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." **Gal 6.14**

With the price so high, the payment so complete, the start so fresh, the Cross cannot be ignored!

And for God's sake we should glory in nothing other than the Cross of Christ!

The Cross is Easter's Story telling us that the power of God is here for all who believe!