



May 2017
 Upcoming Events

* May 6th - L.A.M.E.C.
 Fellowship Day in the
 community. Potluck
 followed by dinner after
 morning worship.

"God smiles when
 we LAI - Love
 Accepted People
 unconditionally"

The Cross – Sr. Pastor Wayne Syas

The cross was an imperative necessity: crucified: it was not, “the Son of man *shall* be lifted up,” but “*must* be lifted up.” (John 3:14 - KJV). There was no other alternative. If justice were to be satisfied, and sin taken away rather than simply covered, it could only be by a sinless one being punished in the place of those who should be saved. Hence the reason the Son of man “*must*” be lifted up.

The cross is more than an exhibition of God’s righteousness. It is a wondrous display of God’s love-gift. Jesus did not die in order to induce God to have pity on man and save man – Jesus died because God loved man and was determined, from the foundation of the world, to save those who believed. Before man was ever created by God, the decision was made, “*that whosoever believeth in him (Jesus) should not perish, but have eternal life.*” (John 3:15 - KJV). God, who *is* love, displayed the supremacy of His love when Christ hung and died on the cross. Here, we see seven characteristics of this love when God gave His son to be

- **The tense of God’s love:**
 God so **lov(ed)**; not lov(es). Understanding God lov(es) us now that we are His children, is easy. But, John says He lov(ed) us before we became His children. In more contemporary vernacular, God lov(ed) us before we:
 1. became sanctified and holy;
 2. came down the isle and gave the preacher our hand;
 3. quit cussing like a sailor;
 4. quit using God’s name in vain
 5. started attending church regularly;
 6. got our name on the church membership role.

In fact, Romans 5:8 says, “*God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*” (KJV).



The Cross (continued)

- **The magnitude of God's love:** God **so** loved. This is not the, "I was tired, so I went to sleep." Neither is this the so which means "likewise" as in, "He likes music and so does she." But this "so" is an immeasurable kind of "so;" It has no dimensions, no depth, no width, no height, and no length.
- **The scope of God's love:** ... **the world.** God's love gift was not limited to Jews, but it flowed to Gentiles and sinners everywhere. It flowed to Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, Asians, Koreans, Chinese, etc., and the entire human race.
- **The nature of God's love:** ... He **gave.** God shows the unselfishness of His love when He put it into action for the benefit of sinful man. The love-gift was given, unconditionally. It was and is not predicated on what we can do to earn it but on what he has done for us, freely.
- **The sacrificial character of God's love:** ... His **only** begotten son. God gave His best gift. This wasn't God's day-old, unwanted and discarded leftovers. God freely delivered Christ to death on the cross. The truth is that no one took Jesus' life, He laid it down (John 10:18 – KJV).
- **The design of God's love:** ... **whosoever believes on Him should not perish.** This "whosoever" includes, prostitutes, drunkards, drug addicts, drug dealers, liars, gossipers, adulterers, you name them. All have access to God's love-gift, by grace through faith. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God: (Ephesians 2:8 – KJV).
- **The generosity of God's love:** **everlasting life.** How long is everlasting? FOREVER. Everlasting **does not** mean, until the next time I sin.

Although Christ died on a cross, he is no longer on that cross. Although Christ was laid in a grave, He is no longer in that grave. He conquered both death and the grave. Christ is now, "*at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*" (Romans 8:34 – KJV). Because Christ lives forever more, he assures us of everlasting life.

~Pastor Wayne

LIFE
MORE ABUNDANT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Women's Group

Christ In You – Elder Dennis C. Mann



Many people do not fully understand what Christ did for them at the cross. His purpose was to reconcile all people back to himself (Col 1:20). “While we were yet sinners Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom 5:8). Since the entire world has been reconciled back to God, the sin issue has been resolved once, and for all (2Cor 5:19). Those that refuse to believe what God has done for them will not be partakers of the Holy Ghost or the kingdom of God (Jn 3:36). Those who believe will be filled with the Holy Ghost (Spirit of Christ) and will have the opportunity to walk in the Spirit and not after the flesh (Gal 5:16).

If you believe, are you walking after the Spirit? Have you ever considered that Christ lives in you - the hope of glory (Col 1:27)? We have the opportunity to gut it out “trying to be a Christian” or to allow Christ to live in and through us, by living a life truly God driven. Which would you prefer to do?

There are two kinds of carnal (fleshly) Christians. The first lives his life in quiet desperation as he works to please God, ultimately leading to total frustration. The second is still controlled by his fleshly desires, living in sin and at the same time being repulsed by it: sin becoming less and less exciting as he struggles with his conscience, the Spirit of Christ and the increasingly displeasing acts of sin. His position is saved but his life here on earth is less than productive and not pleasing to Christ. He does not enjoy the abundant Life promised by Christ.

I hope you will learn the pleasure of walking after the Spirit and allowing Him to do the work in and through you. You will find peace that passes all understanding (Php 4:7) while God does the work. You will truly have fellowship with the beloved. You will find Jesus is truly your all and all. Your faith begins and ends with Christ and the work that He has promised to finish in you, not your ability to fulfill any works on His behalf. Jesus is able to lead you and to guide you as well as to comfort you and to love you. You truly trust in him and do not fulfill the lusts of your flesh. That is, you in Him and Him in you. Therefore, as the Father did the work through Christ so Christ will do the work through you.

~Elder Dennis C. Mann, Associate Minister

