

There's No "Maybe"

It's A Two-Sided Cross:

Luke 23:26-49

- Simon from Cyrene:
- The Criminal:
- The Centurion:
- The Opposition:

Why Is The Cross Necessary?

John 3:16-18, Romans 3:23, 5:8-10, 6:23, 10:9, Acts 4:12, 2 Peter 3:9, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 2:11-14, Philippians 2:12-13, Galatians 2:20

- ▶ Sin separates us from God.

Sin is our willful, deliberate, frontal assault against a holy God.

- ▶ All sin has to be punished.

- ▶ Someone has to pay with their life.

- ▶ It is how God rescues and redeems us.

- ▶ It cleared the way for God to work in us.

Check A Box:

- Yes No Maybe

TAKING IT HOME

1. Chris said that the cross clears the way for God to work in us and through us. Are there any areas you can think of that you'd like to see God work in or through you?

2. Take a moment and write or say a brief prayer of thanks to Jesus for what he did for you at the Cross and what he has done for you since.

Prayer Requests:

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- ▶ Sin _____ us from _____.
Sin is our _____, _____,
frontal assault against a _____.
- ▶ _____ sin has to be _____.
- ▶ Someone has to _____ with their _____.
- ▶ It is how God _____ and _____ us.
- ▶ It _____ the way for God to _____ us.

Check A Box:

_____ _____ _____



Desert Rat Experience - February 10-12

Attention Guys with Toys! It's time again for the Desert Rat Experience. This is a man's weekend designed for guys who are into all kinds of off-roading. You can count on lots of riding time, a poker run and three hot meals with lots of meat. In addition to time on the throttle, we will stop for a few brief "refueling" meetings. For more information or to sign up, visit northcoastchurch.com/rat.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 22, 2012

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you could be guaranteed to be a finalist in any of the following competitions, which would you choose and why?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Spelling Bee | <input type="checkbox"/> Tour de France |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nathan's 4 th of July Hot Dog Eating Competition | <input type="checkbox"/> Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Idol | <input type="checkbox"/> Rubik's Cube World Championship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dancing with the Stars | <input type="checkbox"/> World's Strongest Man |
| <input type="checkbox"/> World of Warcraft | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Amazing Race | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Survivor | |

2. What's your response to Chris' statement, "Sin is our willful, deliberate, frontal assault against a holy God"?

3. This weekend, we looked at the different responses of various people who watched the crucifixion. Looking back on your spiritual journey, can you think of times when you could relate to any of those people?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from "There's No 'Maybe'", was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. As we heard this weekend, the cross was necessary because of sin, and the spiritual death and separation from God that comes from it. Spiritual death is not necessarily a feeling people have but a condition they are in. How do the following passages describe what it means for someone to be spiritually dead?

Ephesians 2:1-3

Titus 3:3

Romans 3:10-18

These passages point toward our absolute need for God's forgiveness and grace in our lives. Have there been any times in your life when the realization of your own sinfulness and God's forgiveness particularly caught your attention?

How could remembering a time like this help you continue to show the same kind of love and grace toward others?

2. When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, it made it possible for us to have eternal life and a relationship with God. What do the following passages say about what God does for anyone who steps over the line and gives Jesus the steering wheel of their life?

Colossians 2:13-14

Titus 3:4-7

Ephesians 2:4-10

Which of these things is most meaningful to you?

How can what God did for you motivate you to serve him?

3. Although Jesus' death provided for the forgiveness of our sins, we still face an ongoing struggle with sin and our sinful nature. What insights about freedom from sin and our responsibility to fight it do you see in the following verses?

Galatians 5:13-15

Romans 6:11-14

Too often Christians try to avoid sin using just their own power rather than relying on God's power. How could John 15:4-5 help us to rely on God's strength rather than our own?