

The Enigma of the Cross

✖ An enigma is something that is puzzling, hard or difficult to explain. It is similar to a riddle. The cross is an enigma to many who wonder why the center of our religion is a symbol of death and despair. What does it mean for a disciple to “take up his cross daily,” as Jesus said we must do to follow Him?

God’s wisdom and plan for the cross is more than a one-time salvation event. It is the strategy for the kingdom of God. The cross is God’s strategy to empower His disciples to oppose the kingdom of darkness.

In military operations there are both strategic and tactical operations. Strategy has to do with the overall war plan, while tactics have to do with the individual battle plans. God’s overall strategy in kingdom warfare between light and darkness, and between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan, is the enigma of the cross.

The preaching of the cross is foolishness to the world and to those who are seeking to understand by reason alone. Unless the Holy Spirit pulls the scales from our eyes and heart, we will never see the power, the glory, the ability or the transforming power of the cross.

The enigma of the cross is God’s secret weapon—His

strategy for overcoming sin and rebellion. True Christian discipleship is fulfilled when we understand by revelation and express by lifestyle this enigma.

Remove the cross, and God's secret weapon is gone. There is nothing in our power or ability that can take the place of the cross.

Just as the enemy, through mockers and unbelievers, tried to get Jesus to come down from the cross, so the enemy of our soul today is trying to get the church to come down from the cross.

But Christianity without the cross is a powerless Christianity. And a cross without Christ is nothing but another symbol of meaningless suffering.

There is a glory in the cross that the church has yet to embrace. Without accepting the cross we have no transformation. If we do not embrace the cross, we will not know the glory of God.

Jesus had choices on the cross. He could have demanded instant release or yielded to despair and hopelessness.

When we face the problems of life, we have choices, too. We can demand immediate relief, which may foil the whole process and stunt our growth, or we can dive into the pit of hopelessness and despair. Hopefully, we can make the risky choice of trusting God even though we see no natural justification to do so.

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Path Less Traveled (*Creation House Press*), from which this article is adapted.