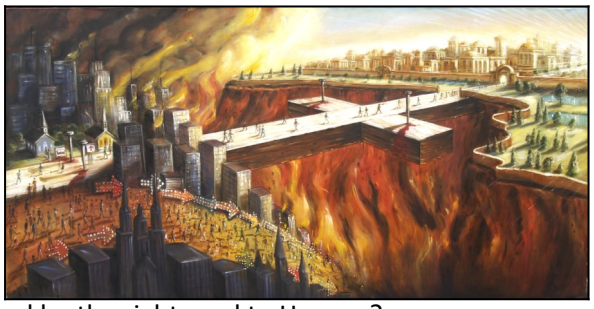
Why the Cross?

(The Exclusivity of Christ and His Death for the Salvation of Mankind)
Selected Scriptures
3/30/2018



Introduction: Why is the way to God exclusively through Jesus Christ? Why is Christ's Work on the Cross the only way to our attaining forgiveness of sins and eternal life?

Couldn't God have devised another means of Salvation?
Couldn't there be an easier way? A less offensive way? Couldn't any road be the right road to Heaven?
See: *1 Corinthians 1:18-f*

- ***Christ's payment for sin at the Cross is the only payment God accepts.***

Why is the Cross the only way?
Why is Jesus the only way to Heaven?

In order for Salvation to be made possible, the following had to be accomplished:

1. Sin had to be paid for
2. Forgiveness had to be granted
3. Righteousness had to be imputed

First a preliminary thought:
Because God is God, and Heaven is His Heaven, He deserves the right to determine the means by which anyone enters His Heaven! If He requires Faith in His Son, He has the right to do so.

I. God's <u>nature</u> demands a salvation plan which would be <u>consistent</u> with <u>His character</u>. (Romans 3:26)

II. God's <u>justice</u> demands that <u>sin be paid for</u>. (1 Peter 3:18)

III. Sin's infinite <u>price</u> demands an <u>infinite payment</u>. (2 Corinthians 1:10)

IV. God's <u>holiness</u> demands a <u>perfect sacrifice for sin</u>. (Hebrews 9-10)

V. God's <u>Son</u> is the only one who could <u>qualify to pay</u> sin's penalty. (Hebrews 7:27)

VI. God's <u>glory</u> demands a salvation plan which would give Him the <u>highest credit, honor, and praise</u>. (Isaiah 42:8; Isaiah 43:10-12)

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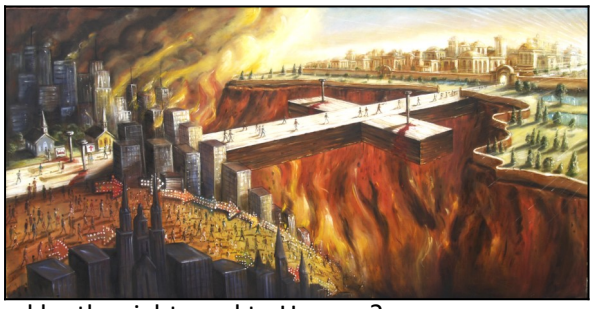

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III. Sin's infinite _____ demands an <u>infinite _____</u>. (2 Corinthians 1:10)

IV. God's _____ demands a _____ <u>for sin</u>. (Hebrews 9-10)

V. God's _____ is the only one who could _____ sin's penalty.
(Hebrews 7:27)

VI. God's _____ demands a salvation plan which would give Him the <u>highest credit, honor, and praise</u>. (Isaiah 42:8; Isaiah 43:10-12)

Why the Cross?

(The Exclusivity of Christ and His Death and Resurrection for the Salvation of Mankind)
Selected Scriptures
3/30/2018

Introduction:

What is the Gospel?

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (KJV)
Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

A very good question has been asked by many:
Why is the way to God exclusively through Jesus Christ? Why is Christ's Work on the Cross the only way to our attaining forgiveness of sins and eternal life?

Wouldn't it make more sense to have some other way of forgiveness and redemption? Couldn't God have devised another means of Salvation? Couldn't there be an easier way? A less offensive way? Couldn't any road be the right road to Heaven?

Is it fair to all that Jesus Christ be the only way to attaining a relationship with God? Isn't that view narrow-minded, bigoted, and intolerant?

At the outset, it must be noted that the Cross has always been an subject of attack. The Apostle Paul dealt with this issue back in ancient Corinth when he wrote to the Corinthians: ***For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*** *- 1 Corinthians 1:18*

Those who are on that path to destruction view the Message about the Cross as ***"Foolishness"*** (folly, nonsense)

It is foolishness to their minds because it conflicts with their own proud ideas and thinking. (people attempt to lower God's ways so as to elevate their own).

- ***Christ's payment for sin at the Cross is the only payment God accepts.***

Why is the Cross the only way? Why is Jesus the only way to Heaven?

First a preliminary thought:
Because God is God, and Heaven is His Heaven, He deserves the right to determine the means by which anyone enters His Heaven! If He requires Faith in His Son, He has the right to do so. (Illustration: Disney Land reserves the right to determine the means by which anyone enters their theme park)

In order for Salvation to be made possible, the following had to be accomplished:

1. Sin had to be paid for
2. Forgiveness had to be granted
3. Righteousness had to be imputed

I. God's <u>nature</u> demands a salvation plan which would be <u>consistent</u> with <u>His character</u>.

Whatever plan of salvation God designed would have to be in line with His character and nature. In other words, since He is holy, His plan of salvation would have to be holy; Because He is just, His means of salvation would also have to be just As Paul writes in Romans 3:26, God is both "just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus"

Since God is loving, His plan must be loving; Since God is wise His plan must be in agreement with His wisdom.

We have every right to expect that God would work in conjunction with His truthfulness and faithfulness. Anything otherwise would be out of His character. He must function in harmony with His divine attributes.

We expect certain people with certain positions to act in a certain way. Whether your pastor, your teacher, your president, or your local policeman; when they act out of character we view them with question and suspicion. We certainly do not respect one who says one thing and lives another.

God's righteousness required our salvation
God's sovereignty planned our salvation
God's love was the motivation for Him to save mankind
God's grace provided our salvation
God's truthfulness provided our salvation
God in faithfulness applied and secures our salvation

II. God's <u>justice</u> demands that <u>sin be paid for</u>.

You see, God is righteous. Being righteous, He cannot ignore, deny or excuse our sin. He can't "sweep sin under the carpet" and pretend that it never happened. No, sin must be paid for. Ezekiel 18:20 - The soul that sinneth, it shall die.

If a judge was to acquit a proven guilty man, that judge should go to jail. He would be guilty of a crime himself, if he was to let a murderer go free, a rapist to go unpunished, a robber to go without paying for the crime. So it is with a just God. He must deal with sin. It would go against his justice to simply say, "Oh it's OK, my love forgives you" No, my friend. God forgives you because He Himself bore the penalty of your sin.

The concept of substitution is taught from Genesis to Revelation.
1 Peter 3:18
For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Someone said to D. L. Moody, "I don't understand how a God of love could send anyone to hell." Moody replied: "I don't understand how a God of justice could allow anyone into heaven."

III. Sin's infinite price demands an infinite payment.

Sin must be infinitely more wicked than we can imagine, if God will really condemn people forever for having committed it.

A big price, demands a big payment. Christ being God can pay that infinite price.

2 Corinthians 1:9-10
But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

"That we should not trust in ourselves" –

"That" – *hina* – expressing purpose, not result (Rienecker, p. 393).

It was all part of God's master plan and design. He reigns sovereign; and He is in full control; God has a very specific reason for the various trials His children all face.

The hymn writer said it best – "The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own."

Place no confidence in the flesh!

"But in God" – self-trust is abandoned for divine trust. Depend on Him; rely upon Him!

Which God do we trust? The only God. The God who has power over death. Nothing is more seemingly impossible than raising the dead back to life. God…**"which raiseth the dead."**

v. 10

In verse ten, Paul gives 3 tenses of deliverance or rescue.

Past – **"delivered"**
Present – **"doth deliver"**
Future – **"he will yet deliver us"**

But physically and spiritually, God has delivered us.

Perhaps the added adjective **"So great a death"** – implies the spiritual and eternal death we have been delivered from.

IV. God's holiness demands a perfect sacrifice for sin. (Hebrews 9-10)

The Fundamental attribute of God is His Holiness.

God is called the "Holy One" (Hos.11:9) and the "Holy One of Israel" (Is.41:14,16,20)

Holiness is an attribute that God has to an infinite degree above and beyond anything or anyone in creation.
"*There is none holy as the LORD"* (I Sam.2:2)
"Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy" (Rev.15:4)

"Holy" = (Hebrew = qadosh; Greek = hagios) The basic idea of the word is separate-ness or apart-ness. (Example: The Bible is often called the "Holy Bible" because it is a "book" that is "set apart" from all others.

Note: The words "sanctify" and "saint" come from the same Hebrew & Greek root words and mean "set apart" or "set apart one"

God being HOLY is "set apart" from everything that is common or unclean; To profane God is to strike against His Holiness.

God's holiness is manifest in two ways:

1) **Majestic Transcendence** - God is set apart from all that is created (Is. 57:15)

2) **Moral Purity** - God is set apart from all that is unclean (Hab.1:13; I Peter 1:13-16)

"Holiness," as defined as "set apart," is noted by many theologians as the **"fundamental attribute"** of God (the foundational attribute of God) It is the attribute of attributes.

All of God's attributes are equal, but all are qualified (or conditioned) by His holiness.

EX: God is set apart from and above all beings in creation in His love, mercy, truth, righteousness, faithfulness, knowledge, wisdom, sovereignty, etc.

God can't be loving . . . apart from His holiness.

God's holiness qualifies every other attribute He possesses.
"His love is *holy* love...His justice is *holy* justice...His wisdom is *holy* wisdom...His arm of power is a "*holy* arm" (Ps.98:1)...His promise is a "*holy* promise" (Ps.105:42)...His name is a *holy* name (Psalm 103:1).

Everything about God is HOLY

His Attributes
His Name (reputation) (Ps.99:3; 111:9; Ezek.36:20-22)
His Works (Ps.145:17)
His Glory (Light) (Exod. 15:11; Is.6:3; I John 1:5-7)
His Spirit (Ps.51:11; Is.63:10)

Everything belonging to God is HOLY

His Holy Nation (Exod.19:6)
His Holy Place (the Temple) (Ps.11:4; 65:4)
His Holy People (Dt.7:6; 14:2)
His Holy City (Jerusalem) (Ps.2:6; Is.52:1; 66:20)
His Holy Camp (Dt.23:14)
His Holy Levites (II Chron.35:3)
His Holy Ark (II Chron.35:3)
His Holy Days (Lev.23; Is.58:13)
His Holy Promise (Ps.105:42; Lk.1:72)
His Holy Scriptures (Rom.1:2)
His Holy Prophets (Luke 1:70)

Everywhere God is HOLY

"Holy Ground" (Ex.3:5; Josh.5:15)
"Holy Habitation" (Deut.26:15)
"The Throne of His Holiness" (Ps.47:8)

Christ's perfect sacrifice is illustrated in the animal sacrificial system of the innocent dying for the guilty.

Hebrews 10:10,14 - **By the which will we are sanctified (made holy) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all…For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified (made holy).**

V. God's <u>Son</u> is the only one who could <u>qualify to pay</u> sin's penalty.

Jesus qualifies because of both who He is and what He had done (including the prophesies He alone fulfilled).

He is qualified to be Savior because He is in nature both Holy God and perfect man;

He is the only one to be virgin born and thereby avoid the sin nature passed on from Adam;

He is the only one to live a perfect life without sin.

Christ had to die on the Cross.

To fulfill God's predictive prophecies

- In types and foreshadowings:
  (The sacrificial system; the offering up of Isaac)
- In prophetic utterances: (Ps. 22; Is. 53)

Did you know…

1. **The O.T. tells us <u>where</u> the Messiah would come into this world:**
   Answer: **BETHLEHEM** (Micah 5:2)

Micah 5:2
But thou, Bethlehem Ephrata, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

2. **The O.T. tells us <u>when</u> the Messiah would come into this world:**
   Answer: **483 YEARS after Artaxerxes' degree to rebuild Jerusalem**
   (Dan.9:25; Neh.2:5)

Da 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

3. **The O.T. tells us <u>how</u> the Messiah would come into this world:**
   Answer: **Of a VIRGIN** (Is.7:14; Mt.1:23)

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
Mt 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

4. The O.T. tells us <u>the names and titles</u> of the Messiah who would come into this world:

Answer: **Wonderful - Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace** (Isaiah 9:6)

Isaiah 9:6: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

5. The O.T. tells us <u>what</u> the Messiah would be like and <u>how</u> He would be viewed and treated when He came into the world:

Answer: **Humble & Rejected** (Isaiah 53:1-3)

Isaiah 53:1-3
Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? [2] For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. [3] He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

6. The O.T. tells us <u>why</u> the Messiah would come into this world:

Answer: **To Suffer & Die for the Sins of the World** (Isaiah 53:4-12)

Jesus stated His purpose for coming with these words:
Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Paul stated the purpose for Christ's coming with these words:
1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

The writer of Hebrews stated the purpose for Christ's incarnation with these words:
Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.
Hebrews 2:14 ¶ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Christ had to die on the Cross.

To fulfill God's requirements:

- The killing of an innocent lamb
- The shedding of pure blood

Hebrews 7:27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

He is the only one to do miracles that set him apart from all others who would claim to be the Messiah.

God authenticated His Son as the essential Savior Messiah of all peoples—Jews and Gentiles (all non–Jews), by:

- His resurrection especially (John 2:18–22; 20–21; Luke 24; Acts 1:1–11; 2:24–27, 31f; 3:15; 17:31; Romans 1:4);
- Other "signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit" (Hebrews 2:4 cf. Acts 2:22, 43; 4:30; 5:12; 6:8; 8:13; 14:3; 15:12; Matthew 27:51–54; John 4:48; 5:36; 10:25, 38; 14:11; 15:24; 20:30f; Romans 15:18f);
- Fulfillments of biblical more than 300 biblical prophecies at His first coming (Luke 4:14–21; 24:25–27, 44–47; Acts 3:24; 8:30–35; 10:43; 13:16–48; 26:22; John 1:45; 5:45–47 cf. Luke 16:27–31). **(Boyet Olave)**

Comparing Christ to Founders of Human Religions

Let us compare Jesus with theoretical substitutes—Confucius, Buddha, and Muhammad, founders and archetypes of world religions.

Considering the Unique Supremacy of Jesus Christ and His Work

Criteria	Jesus	Three Founders of World Religions
Immortal God and Creator of universe	Yes	No, only mortal creatures
Creation's purpose to glorify Him	Yes	No, their scriptures lack a comparable concept
Fulfilled many ancient inspired prophecies of the coming Savior, Messiah, & King	Yes	No, none made nor fulfilled
Sent by God from heaven by supernatural virgin birth; eternal being without origin	Yes	No, not sent by God; only earthly origins by ordinary natural births
Unique incarnation of God—His Son who personally, eternally identifies with us	Yes	No, never even claimed such
His life, character, teaching, miracles revealed God as personal & loving	Yes	No, at best taught a cold, unholy, distant, or impersonal deity
Matchless Holy One of God, sinless in thought, word, deed and omission	Yes	No, just sinners lacking salvation
God authenticated His Son's identity & teaching authority by speaking from heaven, Holy Spirit anointing, transfiguration, & many other miracles	Yes	No miracles; no comparable divine authentication nor authorization; spoke and acted merely on their own
Taught in accord with prior Biblical revelation as required of true prophets	Yes	No, often contradicted God's word
Died a perfect, unrepeatable, atoning sacrifice for all time that God accepted	Yes	Not martyred; died as sinners; provided no atoning sacrifice nor any provision for sin
Raised from death & ascended into heaven	Yes	No, buried in graves or cremated
By His work gives sinners salvation by faith through His grace apart from works (deeds)	Yes	No, people must earn it by works of obedience to laws & rules
Loves, indwells, & empowers His followers	Yes	No, dead & powerless
Intercedes as holy high priest beside His Father; simultaneously understands all languages & millions of prayers	Yes	No, not in heaven; cannot intercede, hear prayer, nor simultaneously understand many languages
Holy King will return to judge all people	Yes	No, never expected to return nor to judge anyone
Accepts worship by people & angels	Yes	No, never accepted any worship

Are Human Religions Good Enough?

A river is purest and highest at its source. Do the founders of alleged ways to God manifest actions, characters, and revelations consistent with the great, holy, loving Creator they often purport to represent? Only Jesus could say truthfully, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9 cf. 1:14, 18; 10:30; 12:45; II Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3).

(From: "Only One Way to Heaven? Is Jesus Christ the Only Means to Reach God?" Boyet Olave, Ph.D. http://www.leaderu.com/theology/onlyoneway.html)

To reconcile man to God, Jesus must be a mediator, who bears the nature of both of the parties that He is reconciling. He is the God-man. The Theanthropic person. He had the nature of both God and man, and therefore is the only one who qualifies to form the bridge between God and man.

VI. God's glory demands a salvation plan which would give Him the highest credit, honor, and praise.

Isaiah 42:8

I *am* the LORD: that *is* my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Isaiah 43:10-11

Ye *are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I *am* he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, *even* I, *am* the LORD; and beside me *there is* no saviour.

God's plan of salvation will end up giving Him all of the glory. Man will have nothing to boast of. By Grace for God's glory.

Ephesians 2:9 **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

Conclusion:

So could there have been another way? Not if the above conditions had to be met! Jesus Christ is the only one who could qualify to be Savior. He is. Trust Him alone today!

It is not stunning that Jesus is the only way but rather that any way to God exists.

(**Boyet Olave)**

In light of man's sinfulness and rebellion against God, the greatest wonder is that God would condescend to save us in any way.

Can Anyone Find God's Way to Heaven?

Deuteronomy 4:29

But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find *him*, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Jeremiah 29:13

And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

God gives spiritual light to all and then more light to those who humbly and rightly receive it (Psalm 19; John 1:9; Acts 14:8-20; Romans 1:19f). To find fullness of light is to find Jesus, who said:

John 8:12

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 14:9

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father;

Matthew 11:27

All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and *he* to whomsoever the Son will reveal *him*.

God's love through Christ reached all types—religious leaders who opposed Him, rich, poor, slaves, babies and children, sick, and outcasts (shepherds, disreputable women, the demon possessed, sufferers from leprosy, tax collectors, half–breeds, foreigners, and occupying soldiers). While in some human religions only a select elite group need apply (e.g., intellectuals, philosophers, mystics, members of one race or ethnic group), God's gospel is for all—even common, ordinary people (I Corinthians 1:18-31; Galatians 3:28). **(Boyet Olave)**

If God intended to reach mankind through one faith, it would logically be the one with the most extensive historic, ethnic, and geographic outreach—Christianity. Some evidence:

- The Bible, God's word, is the bestseller in many languages and is in more languages than the combined total for the sacred writings of humanity's major religions.
- Jesus, history's most influential person, split time into BC, before Christ and AD (*anno domini* , in the year of our Lord). History is *His story*. **(Boyet Olave)**

To be redeemed, natural man requires both the gospel message and the gospel messenger or missionary:

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 10:14

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

God prepared three lost, sincere, religious seekers—the Ethiopian eunuch, the Roman centurion Cornelius, and Lydia—to receive light. When they responded positively, He sent them full gospel light by evangelists (Acts 8, 10, 16). God providentially and sovereignly motivated and guided together in divine appointment both His seekers and His messengers.

Is It Wrong to Claim "The Answer"?

When our car runs low on oil, the manufacturer tells us in the owner's manual to add only high –grade motor oil. Anything else will wreck our engine. Our Creator tells us in His owner's manual, the Bible, that ignoring His only–way teaching about Jesus brings catastrophe.

Some people have a proclivity to reject truths that are new to them or come from an unexpected source. If a brilliant Jewish doctor, through a sacrificial life of dedicated, painstaking research, broke through great obstacles to discover the AIDS cure, should we reflexively shake our fists at God for giving us only one cure and that through a Jew? Rather, everyone should thank and honor God and this scientist for his marvelous medicine. If quacks counterfeited it, and this compassionate, preeminent scientist, exposed and denounced their fraudulent, deadly narcotics, should we castigate him as intolerant? If he publicized and donated his life–saving remedy to his beloved AIDS patients, who had been deceived into addiction to bogus cures, must we condemn him for arrogance?

God designed our bodies to require oxygen and has graciously, globally supplied all we need. Should we scold God for creating no alternatives to oxygen? Should we reprimand God for warning us through general revelation against breathing poison carbon monoxide? After all, invisible, odorless carbon monoxide appears harmless, has oxygen, and seems at first to work well as our blood readily receives it. However, in the end it saturates our blood's hemoglobin and blocks out life–giving oxygen. Earthly religions, similarly, have no life to give but do block out life–giving truth.

(From: "Only One Way to Heaven? Is Jesus Christ the Only Means to Reach God?"
Boyet Olave, Ph.D. http://www.leaderu.com/theology/onlyoneway.html)

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. - 1 Corinthians 1:18

The Message about the Cross not only makes sense Theologically, but it also makes sense pragmatically (it works)!:

> ***It is "The power of God" -*** What energy, strength, or power does God use to save sinners? Answer: The power of the message of Calvary.
>
> They can call you a "fool" and your message "foolish," but you have experienced a life-changing <u>power</u> that the world knows nothing about.
>
> Are we the fools who have come to trust in Christ's finished work?
> Or are the fools the ones attempting to work their way into God's favor and kingdom?
>
> Are we the fools who have available to us the *"power and wisdom of God"* (v. 24)...
>
> ...To have answers to life's greatest questions
> ...To have personal lives that have been miraculously transformed
> ...To have the knowledge how to have marriages that last through thick and thin
>
> Or are the fools the ones who hop from school of thought to school of thought. . .from book to book. . . from class to class. . . and still lack solutions to the moral, ethical, social, and spiritual problems we see every day.
>
> The Message of the Cross still changes lives today!
> *Romans 1:16*
> *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*
>
> *To be "ashamed" means - to have a feeling of fear or shame which <u>prevents</u> a person from doing something. To be embarrassed, humiliated, or blush because of something you did that others view as wrong.*
>
> > *The only thing we should be <u>ashamed of</u> if sin (immorality)! (cp. Titus 2:8)*
> >
> > *1. No one should be ashamed of "<u>good news</u>" (this is what the gospel is!)*
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> > *Paul said to Timothy: "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord..." (II Tim. 1:8).*
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> > *Jesus said - "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels." (Luke 9:26)*

2. *No one should be ashamed of <u>that which saves</u>.*

"Power" = dynamite - explosive and sustained energy that is able to crack open any hard heart!

Have you ever seen the power of the Gospel? I have seen it change homosexuals, drunkards, drug addicts. If it can do that, should I be ashamed of it?

3. *No one should be ashamed of <u>that which is for everyone</u>.*

Salvation is sufficient for all, but only efficient to those who believe.

4. *No one should be ashamed of that which is <u>right</u> (v. 17).*

God's righteousness is unveiled in the Gospel of Christ.

Never be ashamed of truth!

Why the Cross?

It's message is simple enough for all to understand.
2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the <u>simplicity</u> that is in Christ.

Trust Christ alone!
Acts 4:12
Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
John 14:6
Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Christ stands ready and willing to rescue all who trust Him
Romans 10:13
For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.