

Paradoxes of the Cross

Text: Isaiah 53

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A **PARADOX** may be defined as “A statement opposed to common sense, yet true in fact.”
1. Many “**paradoxes**” can be found in Christ’s life and teachings.
 2. In this study we will examine some **Paradoxes** of the Cross.
- B. An interesting passage is found in **John 7:46** wherein we see a **paradox**.
1. The chief priests and Pharisees dispatched some soldiers to bring Jesus to them.
 2. They returned without having brought him.
 3. The Jewish leaders asked, “*Why have you never brought Him? The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!”*”
- C. This morning we are going to look at some “**paradoxes**” of the cross.

FIVE PARADOXES OF THE CROSS

I. CHRIST CAME TO THE EARTH IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT GO TO HEAVEN.

- A. **1 Timothy 1:15** – “*...Christ came into the world to save sinners...*”
1. **Matthew 1:21** – “*..He will save His people from their sins.*”
 2. **Luke 19:10** – “*..the Son of Man has come to seek and to save..*”
- B. **John 14:1-3** – “*...I go to prepare a place for you...*”
1. **2 Corinthians 5:1** – “*...a building from God ... eternal in the heavens.*”
 2. **Revelation 3:12** – “*...the city of My God, the new Jerusalem..*”

II. CHRIST WAS BORN IN THE FLESH THAT WE MIGHT BE BORN OF THE SPIRIT.

- A. **John 1:14** – “*...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...*”
1. **Matthew 1:16** – “*of Mary, by whom Jesus was born..*”
 2. **Galatians 4:4** – “*...God sent forth His Son, born of a woman..*”
- B. **John 3:6** – “*...born of the Spirit is spirit*”
1. **Romans 8:9** – “*...you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit..*”
 2. **1 Corinthians 6:17** – “*...joins himself to the Lord is one spirit..*”

III. CHRIST ACCEPTED POVERTY [Isaiah 53:2]. SO THAT WE MAY BE MADE RICH.

- A. **2 Corinthians 8:9** – “*...you through His poverty might become rich*”.
1. **Luke 2:7** – Born in a manger
 2. **Luke 9:58** – No fancy home
- B. **James 2:5** – “*...rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised..*”

IV. CHRIST WAS REJECTED OF MEN [Isaiah 53:3]. **THAT WE MAY BE ACCEPTED OF GOD.**

- A. **John 1:11-12** – “...those who were His own did not receive Him”.
 - 1. **Luke 19:12-14** – Parable of the nobleman – the citizens hated Him.
 - 2. **Luke 20:13-15** – Parable of the vineyard – they threw Him out and killed Him.
- B. **Ephesians 1:5-6** – “He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself...”
 - 1. **2 Corinthians 6:18** – “...I will be a father to you..”
 - 2. **Galatians 4:5, 6** – “..adoption as sons..”

V. CHRIST WAS PUT TO DEATH [Isaiah 53:8]. **SO THAT WE CAN BE MADE ALIVE.**

- A. **Luke 24:46** – “...Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead..”
 - 1. **John 11:49-52** – “....Jesus was going to die for the nation..”
- B. **Colossians 2:13** – “...He made you alive together with Him...”,
 - 1. **1 Peter 3:18** – “...having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit”

CONCLUSION:

- 1. **We have noted that a PARADOX may be defined as “A statement opposed to common sense, yet true in fact.”**
- 2. We have observed five **Paradoxes of the Cross.**
 - a. **Christ came to the earth in order that we might go to Heaven.**
 - b. **He was born in the flesh that we might be born of the Spirit.**
 - c. **Christ accepted poverty so that we may be made rich.**
 - d. **He was rejected of men that we might be accepted of God.**
 - e. **He was put to death so that we can be made alive.**
- 3. Any seemingly **disadvantage to Christ** He used as an advantage to us.
- 4. Jesus said to Martha in **John 11:25** - “I am the resurrection and the life.....”
- 5. Are you “in Christ”? or, are you “Out of Christ”?