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Premise:

The message of the cross should define not only where you go when you die, but how you live today.



2 Timothy 1:3-6 (NASB95)

³ I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, ⁴ longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.



2 Timothy 1:7-9 (NASB95)

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,



2 Timothy 1:10-12 (NASB95)

¹⁰ but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.



2 Timothy 1:13-14 (NASB95)

¹³ Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.



⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen
from the dead, descendant of
David, according to my gospel,
2 Timothy 2:8 (NASB95)



Why the Cross Should Be the Core

➤ It was central to **Jesus**.



must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mark 8:31 (NASB95)

When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem;

Luke 9:51 (NASB95)



Why the Cross Should Be the Core

- It was central to **Jesus**.
- It is the **key message** throughout Scripture.



If only there were a mediator
who could bring us together, but
there is none! Job 9:33 (NLT)

one mediator also between God
and men, the man Christ Jesus,
1 Titus 2:5 (NASB95)



Why the Cross Should Be the Core

- It was central to **Jesus**.
- It is the **key message** throughout Scripture.
- Nothing is **more important**



³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NASB95)



⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 (NASB95)



¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised,
not even Christ has been raised;
¹⁷ and if Christ has not been
raised, your faith is worthless;
you are still in your sins.

1 Corinthians 15:16-17 (NASB95)



Why the Cross Should Be the Core

- It was central to **Jesus**.
- It is the **key message** throughout Scripture.
- Nothing is **more important**
- *The cross accomplished what nothing else could.*



Hebrew 9:22b-24a

^{22b} without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

²³ Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ^{24a} For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things,



Hebrew 9:24b-26a

^{24b} but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ^{26a} for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world.



Hebrew 9:26b-28

^{26b} But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.



Certain Tendencies Pull Us Away From the Cross

- Condemnation
- Legalism
- Aimless Living
- Subjectivism
- Bitterness

