**CREEKSIDE’S TEACHING NOTES** forSunday, February 26, 2017

**STUMBLING OVER JESUS**

**“Why A Cross?”**

“Did Jesus Really Exist?”

“God A Human?”

“Miracles?”

“Never Sinned?”

“Why A Cross?”

**ONLY BY SACRIFICIALLY DYING COULD JESUS PROVIDE...**

**1. FORGIVENESS:**

Forgiveness always includes suffering.

**You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.**

Colossians 2:13-14

Forgiveness means refusing to

make the offender pay for what they did.

Everyone who forgives someone bears the other’s sins. On the cross we see God doing visibily and cosmically what every human being must do to forgive someone, though on an infinitely greater scale.

Timothy Keller The Reason for God

Jesus Christ is God. God did not, then, inflict pain on someone else, but rather on the Cross absorbed the pain, violence, and evil of the world into himself. Therefore the God of the Bible is not like the primitive deities who demanded our blood for their wrath to be appeased. Rather, this is a God who becomes human and offers his own lifeblood in order to honour moral justice and merciful love so that some day he can destroy all evil without destroying us.

Timothy Keller The Reason for God

**2. SUBSTITUTION:**

Love always includes substitution.

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.**

John 3:16

The essence of sin is we human beings substituting ourselves for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for us. We . . . put ourselves where only God deserves to be; God . . . puts himself where we deserve to be.

John Stott The Cross of Christ

“I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the Cross. In teh real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?”

John Stott

**3. VICTORY:**

Victory always includes sacrifice.

**For what I received I passed on to you of first importance: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures . . .**

1 Corinthians 15:3

**And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.**

Colossians 2:15

. . . when the New Testament talks of Jesus’ death and what it accomplished, it doesn’t just talk about dealing with sin (though it does that too). It talks about God overthrowing the dark powers that have taken over the world.

N T Wright

And they sang a new song, saying:

**“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,  
because you were slain,  
    and with your blood you purchased for God  
    persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.  
You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,  
    and they will reignon the earth.”**

Revelation 5:9-10