

Back to the Cross...

God knew what He was doing when He instituted the Lord's Supper (Communion). He was "forcing" His people back to the cross every week.



Riddle:
Who probably killed one-fourth of the people in the world?

When we "go back to the cross..."

...we see an incredible example of obedience! Our nature is "I want..." "Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.' He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will'" (MT 26:38-39 NKJV). "Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done'" (MT 26:42). "So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words" (MT 26:44). "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:5-8). "Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him..." (Hebrews 5:8-9).

He was the true Light!
Yet, He experienced the darkness of the cross...

...we see a terrible example of rebellion. The angry mob cried: "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" (JN 19:6). If we look closely, we may see ourselves in the crowd: "Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?" (Hebrews 10:29). "Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience" (4:11).

...we are overwhelmed by the amazing love of God! What else is seen when we "view" the cross? "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 JN 4:9-10). "We love Him because He first loved us" (4:19). Do you truly love Him?

...we find a tremendous sense of unity. All of us who look to the cross are sinners saved by grace. It makes no difference: rich, poor, slave, free, male, female, or color of skin—all have sinned "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). We know that without Christ we are nothing.

As we eat the Lord's Supper today. Let us each seriously reflect on the obedience of Jesus, our rebellion, God's love, and our unity IN Christ. May God truly help us to partake with hearts centered again on what really matters...the cross of Christ. His sinless life, atoning death, and powerful resurrection would guide and direct us in this life—will we allow Him to do so?

To our valued visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few "family" announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord's Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and gospel preaching from the Bible. Any response is up to you and will be kindly received. We are glad you decided to worship God with us on this first day of the week!

Birth/Anniversary Lunch: Second Sunday of the month...

NMCCH: Spray & Wash and Bar Bath Soap (pick up in **April 6, 2019**)

Friday Bible Study: From 7 to 8 PM, yes, every Friday... God bless your study of His Word!

Congregational Holiday Party: Sunday (12/16) after PM service—a gift exchange party (YES, for the fun of it)...

LAST Ladies Bible Class for the Year: on Wednesday (12/19). The women will have an ornament gift exchange after a lesson. Men's Bible Study invited to stay for lunch.

Building Relationships Seminar: at Howe, **January 11-13, 2019** (more INFO on bulletin board)