



THE PARADOX OF THE CROSS

Pasir Panjang Church of Christ, March 7th,
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Paradox Defined

- A situation where the outcome contradicts the facts presented
- Unlike a contradiction which denies itself & is logically incongruous, a paradox is a valid situation that does exist
- It needs an ingredient outside the apparent & known to validate

Paradoxes in the Bible

- Mark 8:34 - For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it
- 1 Cor 1:26-28 - But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; .. the weak things of the world to shame the strong .. the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are

Paradoxes in the Bible (cont)

- 2 Cor 12:10 - When I am weak, then I am strong
- Matthew 27:32 – Simon, the Cyrene, “helping” Jesus carry the cross

Our Response to Paradoxes

- Skepticism, relegated to legends & tales of the past
- Pride prevents us from appreciating a mystery
- Job – found peace in the knowledge that God know all the answers

- Paradox of the Cross stands because of the sacrifice of Christ

The Sacrifice of Christ

The Maker of Man, became man
The Bread of Life had to go hungry
The Fountain of Life had to thirst
The Way had to grow tired on the journey
The Truth was accused of falsehood
The Life had to suffer death
The Teacher had to be beaten with whips
**The Foundation had to be suspended on
wood**
The Healer had to be wounded.

And Can It Be (Charles Wesley)

**And can it be that I should gain an interest in my Savior's
blood?**

**Died He for me, who caused His pain, for me, who scorned
His perfect love**

**Amazing love! How can it be that You, my God, would die for
me?**

**You left Your Father's throne above; so free, so infinite Your
grace!**

**Emptied Yourself of all but love, and bled for Adam's
helpless race!**

**Amazing love! How can it be that You, my God, would die for
me?**

**Boldly I come before Your throne to claim Your mercy,
immense and free**

The Pattern of Bible Paradoxes

- God's requirement of Abraham to sacrifice Issac (Gen 22)
- Sacrifices cost dearly
- No sacrifice is too hard when God demands it
- God never demands what He Himself is unwilling to release

Comprehending God

- Psalm 8:4 - What is man that you are mindful of
him, the son of man that you care for him?
- Isaiah 55:8 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways
- God Is LOVE
- 1 John 4:10 - This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins

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Christ Exchanged Places With Us

- The sign on the Cross
- The nails, the tomb
- John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends
- The Son of God died so we could live
- The price for our sin was paid & the earth shook, the dead rose & the temple veil was torn in two

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (Isaac Watts)

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (Isaac Watts)

**His dying Crimson like a Robe,
spreads o'er his Body on the Tree,
Then I am dead to all the Globe,
And all the Globe is dead to me.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**