

Paradoxes of the Cross

Lesson Text: **Isaiah 53**

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A **PARADOX** may be defined as “**A statement opposed to common sense, yet true in fact.**”
- 0. Many “paradoxes” can be found in Christ’s life and teachings.
 - 0. 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. The chief priests and Pharisees dispatched some soldiers to bring Jesus to them. They returned without having brought him. The Jewish leaders asked, “Why have you never brought Him? The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!”
- C. Let us observe some five “paradoxes” of the cross.

FIVE PARADOXES OF THE CROSS

- A. **CHRIST CAME TO THE EARTH IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT GO TO HEAVEN.**
- 0. **1 Timothy 1:15** – It is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.
 - 0. **John 14:1-3** – Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.
 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.
- B. **HE WAS BORN IN THE FLESH THAT WE MIGHT BE BORN OF THE SPIRIT.**
- 0. **John 1:14** – And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - 0. **John 3:5** – That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- C. **CHRIST ACCEPTED POVERTY SO THAT WE MAY BE MADE RICH.**
- 0. **2 Corinthians 8:9** – For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
- D. **HE WAS REJECTED OF MEN THAT WE MAY BE ACCEPTED OF GOD.**

- 0. **John 1:11-12** - He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.
- 0. **Ephesians 1:5-6** - Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

E. HE WAS PUT TO DEATH SO THAT WE CAN BE MADE ALIVE.

- 0. **Luke 24:46** – Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.
- 0. **Colossians 2:13** – And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

CONCLUSION:

- A. We have noted that a **PARADOX** may be defined as “**A statement opposed to common sense, yet true in fact.**”
- B. We have observed five **Paradoxes of the Cross**.
 - 0. Christ came to the earth in order that we might go to Heaven.
 - 0. He was born in the flesh that we might be born of the Spirit.
 - 0. Christ accepted poverty so that we may be made rich.
 - 0. He was rejected of men that we might be accepted of God.
 - 0. He was put to death so that we can be made alive.
- C. Any seemingly disadvantage to Christ He used as an advantage to us.
- D. Jesus said to Martha in **John 11:25** - "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."
- E. Are you “in Christ”? or, are you “Out of Christ”?
- F. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation.**