



**The Other Side Of The Cross**  
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1. Introduction:

- a. The Grand Canyon: You were created to enjoy something far greater than yourself.
- b. You were created to stand in awe and enjoy the glory of God.
- c. The Four Living Creatures
  - i. If they were forced, it doesn't say much for the glory of God. ("I'm not that exciting, I had to force them.")
  - ii. If they have a free will, it teaches us that God's glory satisfies our soul and sustains our physical bodies.
- d. Most Christians aren't focused on God's glory because they only see one side of the cross.

2. Body:

- a. There are two sides to the cross
  - i. Jesus suffered to die for man's sin
  - ii. Jesus suffered to die for the glory of His Father
    1. Are these two sides equal, or is one greater than the other?
- b. There has been conflicting, confusing, communication going on in the church.
  - i. What is the primary purpose of the church? Answer: To glorify God
  - ii. What is the primary purpose of Christ's Death? Answer: to die for our sins.
    1. The first communicates that life is all about God.
    2. The second communicates that life is all about us.
  - iii. Most music points us to us. What is being sung is not incorrect, but it is incomplete. And because there is no mention of God's glory, we conclude, "He died solely for me!" and therefore non-verbally assume life is about us.
- c. Four ways Christ's death points us to the Father's glory
  - i. Christ's death upholds and restores His Father's reputation.
    1. Because God did not judge David by killing him, He was looking like a hypocrite.
    2. People thought, "God must not be that glorious anymore, holy anymore...etc"
    3. Romans 3:25 God sent his son to demonstrate his justice.
  - ii. Christ death satisfies the wrath of God.
    1. Romans 3:23: We fall short of God's glory. We have communicated to God that there are other things/people/feelings/thoughts that are more valuable to us than God.
    2. Eph 5:3,4, Romans 1:18, 1 Thess 1:10, Gal 3:13, John 3:36... all scriptures that say God's wrath will come on those who have fallen short.

3. Hell is eternal, not because of the sin we have done, but because of the glory we have rejected. Because God's glory is infinite, hell must be eternal. If it ever stopped short, it would communicate that God's glory is not infinite.
- iii. Christ's death will restore creation to its original state
  1. Gene 3:17-19: The ground was cursed along with Adam and Eve.
  2. Revelation 21:1: The new earth will not be cursed.
  3. Rom 8:20,21 The earth is groaning under the curse.
  4. Col 1:19,20/Acts 3:21: God is reconciling all "things" unto himself, not merely all people.
  5. Revelation 5:13 Praising Jesus will be creations "in the sea"
- iv. Christ's death allows humanity to fulfill their original purpose
  1. Isa 43:6,7/61:1-3, We were created to glorify God.
  2. Isa 59:2, our sins keep us from glorifying God
  3. Romans 15:8,9 Christ came to the earth **so that** the gentiles might glorify God (get back to the original purpose we were created for.)
  4. Psalm 86:9 Not only us, but all nations as well.
- d. Does Jesus agree with this?
  - i. John 12:27,28 Jesus cries out going to the cross, "Father, glorify thy name." This certainly was the primary reason why He went to the cross.
- e. There are key differences in life with the two different sides of the cross.
  - i. Cats think, "Jesus suffered and died for me, therefore I'm not going to have to suffer any more. He did it all for me!!!"
  - ii. Dogs think: Jesus suffered and died to reveal His Father's glory. He has left me an example that I should be willing to suffer for the Father's glory as well.
- f. A Consistent Theme:
  - i. The primary purpose of the church is to glorify God
  - ii. The primary purpose of Christ's death is to glorify God.
    1. They now agree!
3. Conclusion
  - a. To not focus on God's glory is a great loss to us and a great insult to Him.