|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | The Cross of Christ  Talk 3: Enjoy the Cross |  |
|  |  |

They watched the pale rings of light round his lanterns as they dwindled into the foggy night. Suddenly Frodo laughed: from the covered basket he held, the scent of mushrooms was rising. *The* *Fellowship of the Ring*, J.R.R. Tolkien

**INTRODUCTION**

From…..for

*Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

**A. REDEMPTION PROMISED**

*Genesis 3:14-15*

*“Cursed are you above all the livestock*

*and all the wild animals!*

*You will crawl on your belly*

*and you will eat dust*

*all the days of your life.*

*And I will put enmity*

*between you and the woman,*

*and between your offspring and hers;*

*he will crush your head,*

*and you will strike his heel.”*

*1 John 3:8. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.*

*Acts 10:36-38 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ….and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.*

*Genesis 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. 2 “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

**B. REDEMPTION FORESHADOWED**

The Passover: Exodus 1, 9, 12

*Exodus 1:12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. 13 So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel serve 14 and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of service in the field. In all their service they ruthlessly made them serve .*

**C. REDEMPTION DELIVERED**

*Luke 22:14-20*

*Colossians 2:13  When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

**The four enemies of humanity**



**How Jesus broke the chain**

**Implications**

**The paradox of the cross: victory through death**

**The wisdom of the cross: salvation through weakness and humiliation**

*Matthew 27:32-44*



Any contemporary observer, who saw Christ die, would have listened with astonished incredulity to the claim that the Crucified was a Conqueror. Had he not been rejected by his own nation, betrayed, denied and deserted by his own disciples, and executed by authority from the Roman procurator? Look at him there, spread-eagled and skewered on his cross, robbed of all freedom of movement, strung up with nails, pinned there and powerless. It appears to be a total defeat. If there is victory, it is the victory of pride, prejudice, jealousy, hatred, cowardice and brutality. Yet the Christian claim is that the reality is the opposite of the appearance. What looks like (and indeed was) the defeat of goodness by evil is also, and more certainly, the defeat of evil by goodness. Overcome there, He was Himself overcoming. Crushed by the ruthless power of Rome, he was Himself crushing the serpent’s head. The victim was the victor, and the cross is still the throne from which he rules the world. John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*, 227-28

**D. REDEMPTION ENJOYED**

**1. Freedom from slavery to fear**

*Hebrews 2:14    Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—  15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.  16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants.  17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.*

“The fear of the death is the worm at the core of every human pretention to happiness.”  Williams James

**2. Freedom from slavery to sin**

*Ephesians 2:1-10*



**3. Freedom from slavery to self**

*Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*



*Mark 10:42 You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 43 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

**Response:** write down one idea that you would like to think more about