



SERIES:	Topical
MESSAGE:	Nailed to the Cross
SPEAKER:	Skip Heitzig
SCRIPTURE:	Colossians 2:11-14

MESSAGE SUMMARY

The crucifixion was a visual and aural experience; to realize that we are responsible for it helps us grasp the impact of Christ's sacrifice for us. As we look ahead to Good Friday, we learn about the significance of Jesus' crucifixion and are encouraged to leave all of our sins and burdens at the cross.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. Typically, our services are text-based and expository
- B. The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was a very visual experience
 1. It would be a shock to see
 2. It would be gruesome to hear
- C. We want to bring tension and emotion back into the cross to personalize it and help us relate to the fact that the Son of God died for us
- D. "Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us"—John Stott
- E. It's only when we're aware of our sin that we're grateful we have a Savior
- F. The cross is a universal symbol of the Christian faith
 1. We can blame the Roman soldiers, Pontius Pilate, the Jewish leaders, the crowd, or Judas for the cross
 2. But we have to look in the mirror to get the full picture
 3. Who's responsible for this? I am—we are
 4. I Corinthians 15:3
- G. Not only are we responsible for the cross, but the cross was the plan of God from the very beginning; John 10:18

II. Colossians 2:11-14 (New Living Translation)

- A. Paul talked about two rituals: Jewish (circumcision) and Christian (baptism)
 1. Both were visual reminders of a reality
 2. These ceremonies acted out what these groups believed in
 3. Circumcision symbolized the cutting away of the fleshly life and desires
 4. Baptism spoke of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ
- B. When Jesus Christ came, He did what no religion or ritual could ever do: He got rid of the guilt that comes from our failure to keep God's law
- C. Paul had an ancient practice in mind

1. When someone owed somebody a debt, there was a legal certificate or charge of debt, handwritten and signed
 2. This note stood in the way between the lender and the borrower
 3. Life wasn't quite right between the two until the debt was paid off
 4. Once the debt was paid, a public notice was made that it had been paid
- D. The point is that Jesus Christ came because we owed a huge debt, and He paid it
- E. Jesus Christ paid the bill—and even left a tip
1. He died on the cross, was buried, and rose from the dead
 2. He conquered death and promises new life to anyone who believes that His work is enough
- F. The Law just pointed a finger at us
1. We've broken all Ten Commandments—if not outwardly, then inwardly
 2. The Law says, "You owe God a debt that you can never pay"
- G. "It costs God nothing, so far as we know, to create nice things; but to convert rebellious wills cost Him crucifixion"—C.S. Lewis
- H. "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow"—"Jesus Paid It All," Elvina M. Hall
- I. "At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light, and the burden of my heart rolled away, it was there by faith I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day"—"At the Cross," Isaac Watts
 - J. We want to provide a way for you to visually and audibly connect with this
- K. The Bible calls Jesus Christ our advocate, our defense attorney (see 1 John 2:1)
- L. Write down a sin you need to confess, and we'll nail it to the cross
- III. Closing
- A. Take a good look at the cross, but not in a way that would break your heart; realize that in Christ doing that for you, it's done, it's over, it's finished, it's paid in full—and it's cause for rejoicing!
 - B. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)
 - C. Because of the cross, we're right with God
 - D. We don't have to live beaten down and ashamed; we can live with confidence because of what He did for us

Figures referenced: John Stott, C.S. Lewis, Elvina M. Hall, Isaac Watts

Cross references: John 10:18; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 2:11-14; 1 John 2:1

Topic: Cross

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