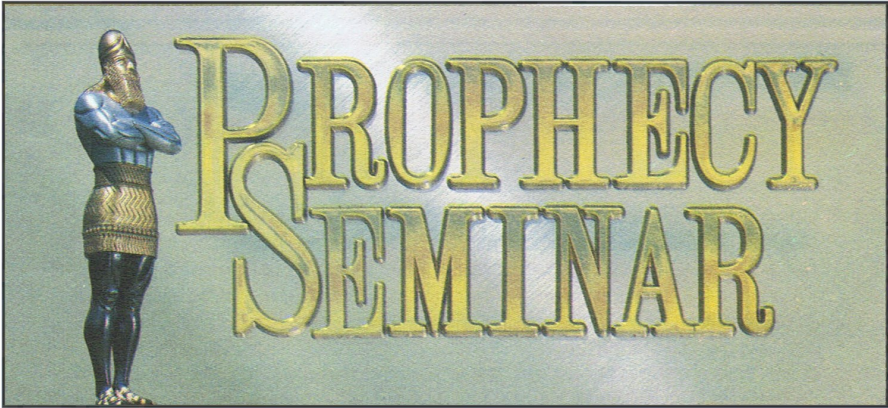


Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

DS-031



LESSON THIRTY-ONE
THE CROSS OF CHRIST

QUIZ QUESTIONS

- 1. The gospel that must be preached to all the world before Jesus comes includes the message about the book of Daniel. **True**
- 2. The New Testament church had no organization whatsoever. **False**
- 3. The New Testament indicates that Christians should belong to an organized church on earth. **True**
- 4. The Bible indicates that the tithe is to be used for the support of the ministry. **True**
- 5. Failure to pay tithe is characterized in Scripture as robbing God. **True**

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Purpose of This Lesson:

This lesson is designed as a decision lesson. It is an attempt to review the major truths of the message in the setting of the cross of Christ.

The focal point of the lesson is that all truth centers in Jesus and all error destroys the all sufficiency of Jesus. There is also another underlying message in the lesson: all truth uplifts salvation by grace alone, while all error centers in salvations by works.

This can be one of the most Christ-centered lessons you have taught. It is only as people see truth in its relationship to Jesus that they become more than intellectual assenters to truth. God bless you as you present this lesson making Jesus the heart and center of the Adventist message.

Question 1

While Daniel deals with prophecy and is in the Old Testament, remind your students that Daniel gives one of the clearest predictions of the cross in the entire Old Testament.

As you introduce this lesson, share the great importance of Calvary and the sacrifice that Jesus made for us there. Share with your students how much Calvary means to you. You want this lesson to be very meaningful to them as well as very personal.

Question 3

The cross is the central theme of the New Testament. It meant everything to New Testament disciples. The cross spelt the death knell for Satan. He is defeated at Calvary.

That's why he does not want people to see the all-sufficiency of the cross. You are now introducing Satan's counterfeit system. You have talked about each of these points in previous lessons, but it will amaze your students to see it all put together.

For the first time many of them will realize what a Christ-centered, cross-centered message you have been teaching.

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part of Jesus's remnant church, the Seventh-day Adventist church that is preaching this cross-centered, Christ-centered message into all the world'?

If that is your decision, place a check in Box #1.

If you feel tonight that you are not quite ready to make this most important decision, but wish me to pray that you will make it soon, place a check in Box #2.

Shall we pray?"

Question 4

Don't get side tracked on this question into a scientific discussion of creation and evolution. You are best not to deal with it from the scientific standpoint. Instead you are dealing with it from the theological perspective.

The matter of what we believe about origins will affect our understanding of the cross of Christ. The best argument against evolution is not that you can prove that creation makes good science too, but the best argument is what evolution does to the cross of Christ.

Question 5

Here is a chance to briefly review the state of the dead. At this point just show how what we believe on the state of the dead will affect the cross of Christ. Emphasize the major point: if we already have an immortal soul dwelling inside of us, then we already have everlasting life and we don't need the cross to give us that which we already have. That is the main point here.

Question 6

Stress that eternal life is in the Son. To possess eternal life, I must possess the Son. Look up 1 John 5:11-12. Life is available only in the Son.

Question 7

Satan's strategy throughout the great controversy has been to attack God's holy law. He attacked it in the beginning in heaven. He is still attacking it today. Make it clear to your people that uplifting of the law is not legalism, but is clearly showing people their great need of the cross of Christ.

The law doesn't save. It reveals clearly that I can't be saved by law keeping, for no one can keep the law in their own strength. That's why

the law points out my need of Christ and the cross.

Question 8

Here is another opportunity to review the Sabbath truth in the setting of the cross. Emphasize again that the Sabbath is the great sign of the finished work of Christ on the cross, just as it was the sign of His initial finishing of the work of creation. In both cases God rested on the 7th day.

Questions 9 to 12

Read the introduction to this section in your lesson to your students. You will now be going over these same 5 points again.

However, your emphasis is a little different. Whereas the first time you were emphasizing how Satan's counterfeit system destroyed the cross, you will now emphasize how the truth uplifts the cross.

You will also be revealing how God's truth always centers in salvation by grace, whereas Satan's counterfeit centers in salvation by works. Draw the contrast with each of these points throughout this entire section.

When you finish this section your students should clearly see the Christ-centeredness of this message. Your emphasis should lead them to see that the Seventh-day Adventist message is a very grace-oriented message, and not a works message.

If some anti-Adventist antagonists are telling your students that Adventists are legalists and works oriented, which can happen at this time, this lesson should make an indelible impression on them that we believe totally in salvation by grace alone.

Questions 13 to 24

For this last section, lay your lesson aside and just tell the story of the cross and what Jesus went through. This will become your major appeal that will lead into a decision to accept this beautiful Christ-centered

message. Use the lesson material, but tell it in your own words. You might wish to expand it a little by using some of the material in **Desire of Ages**.

When finishing the narrative description of the events and agonies of Calvary, move into an appeal for decision. You might wish to say something like what follows. However do not read it Say it in your own words. Look the people square in the eyes as you lovingly appeal for decision.

How many of us are crucifying Christ afresh today by refusing to come out boldly before the world and take our stand for truth. Most people don't take their stand for fear of what people will think about them. They say, "I just wish I had been brought up this way, then it wouldn't be so embarrassing to change."

"As you see the Saviour tonight, upon that cross, dying for you amid the taunts and ridicule of the crowd—the Saviour that everyone had turned from, I want you to see Him there all alone."

"As you see Him there utterly forsaken of God and man, wondering if it's worth it all. Wondering, if folk would be willing to give up their homes, their jobs, their families, their church ties, and all the rest that ties us. Wondering if we would be willing to surrender all for Him?"

"I want to ask you, friend, if you had been there in that awful hour, would you have been willing to stand up and be counted for God. Would you have looked up straight into His eyes and said: "Jesus, all men may forsake you. You may feel as though all this is in vain, but there is one thing, that I do want you to know, if you are willing to go through that much for me, I am willing to go through anything for you. I'll give you my heart tonight."

Would you have done it then?

If you would have done it then, friend, then you'll do it now, tonight.

Will you heed the pleading look of Jesus from Calvary tonight by putting a check in Box #1 if it is your decision to say yes to Jesus and accept Jesus message that centers in the cross?

Do you wish to help share this message with the world by becoming a