

THE CURSE OF THE CROSS

Deuteronomy 28:1-19

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

Galatians 3:10-14

2 Corinthians 5:21

Isaiah 53:4-11

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What do you think of when you hear the word “curse”? What is a curse?
- What is the best gift you’ve ever received? How did it make you feel? How did you respond?

Life is full of natural consequences, many of them bad. Eat something too hot? You’ll likely burn your mouth. Walk carelessly on a patch of ice? There’s a good chance you’ll slip and fall. When humanity entered into a covenant with God, that covenant came with natural consequences—both good and bad. And when humanity broke covenant with God, that meant receiving God’s curse instead of his blessing. Together, let’s examine and discuss why acknowledging and understanding the curse of the cross matters. We’ll study scriptures to understand the meaning and implications of the curse of the cross, the fullness of what Christ did through his death on the cross, the implications of his sacrifice for us, and the best response we can offer.

Listen: [*The Curse of the Cross*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- The natural consequences of sin affected more than just Adam and Eve. The curse affected creation and all subsequent generations of human beings. Give an example of the inherent brokenness you see in creation, your life, or our world.
- Reflect on the conversation that hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee have in the beginning of segment 2 about how dying on a pole, a tree, or a cross (depending on the Bible translation) is a cursed way to die. What do God’s laws in [Deuteronomy 21:22-23](#) tell you about his love for humanity? What does it say about how much God values human life?
- Why is it so hard for us to receive God’s pardon by faith? Why do we still try to earn our salvation?
- Is gratitude a regular part of your relationship with God? Why or why not? If it is, how do you show gratitude to God? Are there ways you show gratitude to God beyond prayers of gratitude? If so, what are they? If not, what are some other ways of showing gratitude that you could explore?

Related Passages

- **Psalm 1**
- **Genesis 2:4-3:24**
- **Matthew 19:16-26**
- **Mark 10:17-27**

Conclusion

Spend a few moments further reflecting on and brainstorming ways you can express and show your gratitude to God. Reflect on your list and consider incorporating one or more expressions of gratitude into your daily habits during the season of Lent.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/the-curse-of-the-cross>

Printed on July 27, 2024