

The Curse of the Cross

Crucifixion was a particularly gruesome way to die, but when Jesus died on the cross it wasn't just gruesome, it was cursed. Seeking to understand the cursed nature of the cross leads us to make connections between the Old Testament and the New Testament, between our deep-seated guilt and the extreme cost Jesus paid to set us free. We were rightly cursed by God for our failure to keep his covenant, but Jesus became that curse to pay our debt. Join us as we study Scripture to better understand the meaning and implications of the curse of the cross and consider the implications for our lives of faith today.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- 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?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [The Curse of the Cross](#)

READ [Deuteronomy 28:1-19](#), [Deuteronomy 21:22-23](#), [Galatians 3:10-14](#), [2 Corinthians 5:21](#), [Isaiah 53:4-11](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- 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 for further study

[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 November 23, 2024