

“The Cross of Jesus Christ”

1. The cross is the object of _____
2. The cross is the subject of _____
3. The cross is the purpose of _____
4. The cross is the theme of _____
5. The cross is the point of _____
6. The cross is the theology of _____
7. The cross is the focus of _____
8. The cross is the heart of _____

John 12:27-36

- I. Jesus’ _____ before the cross (27-28a)
- II. The Father’s _____ of the cross (28b-30)
- III. Jesus’ _____ because of the cross (31-33)
 - A. Judgment upon the _____
 - B. Judgment upon _____
 - C. People drawn to _____
- IV. The people’s _____ to the cross (34)
- V. Jesus’ _____ regarding the cross (35-36)

Many years ago two prominent men made totally contradictory statements. One was the president of Harvard University, the other a graduate of Yale University and the president of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. The latter, R.A. Torrey, said, “Preach any Christ but a crucified Christ, and you will not draw men for long.” The former, Charles Eliot, in a lecture entitled “The Future of Religion,” said that while it is okay for ancient man to believe in a divine, atoning Christ, modern man had outgrown that idea. He stated:

“Let no man fear that reverence and love for Jesus will diminish as time goes on. The pathos and heroism of his life and death will be vastly heightened when he is relieved of all supernatural attributes and power.”

With the rise of modernism, for a while it looked very much as if Charles Eliot was right. But today Torrey’s words ring true. Although men may come for a time to a purely social gospel, they will not remain. Liberalism does not draw. Moral rearmament does not draw. We may proclaim the Lord as a great ethical teacher, but ethics alone will generate no more power than do the Ten Commandments painted on the cold surface of the walls of a church. We may proclaim Jesus as a young reformer, but he will not be able to lift man from his sins if that is all he is. Jesus the radical may draw cheers, but the uplifted Christ draws followers for eternity.