

“The Necessity of the Cross”
That Rugged Cross • part 1
Romans 3:9-20

1. *The centrality of the cross*

- etymology of the word “cross”

“In the Christian theology of history, the death of Christ is the central point of history; here all the roads of the past converge; hence all the roads of the future diverge.”

– Bishop Stephen Neill

- necessity of the cross
1 Cor. 1:21

- the sinfulness of man v. the holiness of God

“All inadequate doctrines of the atonement are due to inadequate doctrines of God and man. If we bring God down to our level and raise ourselves to His, then of course we see no need for a radical salvation, let alone for a radical atonement to secure it. When, on the other hand, we have glimpsed the blinding glory of the holiness of God, and have been so convicted of our sin by the Holy Spirit that we tremble before God and acknowledge what we are, namely ‘hell-deserving sinners,’ then and only then does the necessity of the cross appear so obvious that we are astonished we never saw it before.”

– John R.W. Stott

- + Pelagianism (“Liberalism,” “Universalism”)
- + Augustinianism (“Calvinism,” “Reformed theology”)
- + semi-Pelagianism (“Arminianism”)

2. *The sinfulness of man*

- sin is a _____
Col. 2:13-14

- sin is a _____
1 Jn. 3:4-5; Deut. 1:26

- sin is _____
Col. 1:21; Rom. 5:10

3. *The holiness of God*

- as the Author of life, He has authority to impose obligations
Ps. 51:4

- wrath = God’s holy reaction to sin