

### NEW COVENANT CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST

#### 1. **Before the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the CROSS was a symbol in the world of the worst crimes against the State and society (Matt.27:15-19; Luke 23:17-25) [An example being Barabbas].**

The Persian custom of crucifixion for a capital offense was adopted by the Greeks, and then by the Romans.

The Romans used four primary types of crosses for crucifixion (Latin words).

- **Crux Simplex ( I )** A pole on which common criminals were condemned to die, typically including a block for the feet, thus using only one nail through the hands (below the palm), and hastening death by asphyxia most often following the breaking of the legs.
- **Crux Decussata ( X )** A supposed variety of the cross of crucifixion consisting of two intersecting beams set up in the form of an X.
- **Crux Commissa ( T )** The Cross of Tau was named after the Greek letter it resembles, is a form of the Christian cross symbol.
- **Crux Immissa ( t )** A type of the cross in which the vertical beam sticks above the crossbeam, and is held as the main representation of the cross upon which Jesus Christ was crucified.

Historians tell us that the Romans used a special military crucifixion detail consisting of a centurion and four soldiers (Matt.27:54; Mark 15:39).

Christian scholars are divided between Crux Commissa and Crux Immissa. Hollywood and most Christians accepted **Crux Immissa**. It had two intersecting beams of equal lengths called patibulum (cross beams). The convicted criminal would carry the cross beam to the place of crucifixion (Luke 23:26-33) [Simon of Cyrene].

We know that the hands of Jesus were nailed and His side speared (John 20:25-27). We know that a placard was placed above his head (Luke 23:38). Christian archaeologists believed His heels were nailed from the side to cross with nails 5-7 inches with a piece of acacia wood placed between the bone and nail (Acts 2:23; 5:30-32; 10:39-40).

Constantine put an end to death by crucifixion in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

#### 2. **The crucifixion of Jesus Christ brought the CROSS into a spiritual symbol to the world of victory over sin, death, and curse of Law. (Col.2:13-14; Eph.2:15-16; Phil.2:8; Gal.3:10-14, 29).**

(Col.1:20-22) “And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, **having made peace through the blood of His cross**; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or in heaven. And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach.” (Gen.3:15)

(Gal.3:13) “**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law**, having become a curse for us – for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.’” (Deut.21:21-23; Gal.2:20-21)

**3. The Gospel message of Grace Salvation through the CROSS of Jesus Christ became a stumbling block to the Jew and foolishness to the Gentile (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).**

(1 Cor.1:17-18) “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, that the cross of Christ should not be made void. For the **word of the cross** is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us **who are being saved it is the power of God.**”

As spiritually advancing Church Age Believers (CABs), we must defend the gospel of grace salvation in two areas: **The gospel message and the mechanics of salvation.**

(Gal.2:21) “I do not nullify the grace of God; **for if (1cc)** righteousness comes through the Law, **then** Christ died needlessly.” (Phil.1:7, 16)

- **The Gospel message** that must be defended is that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the entire human race, was buried and raised on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe (1 Cor.15:3-4; John 1:29; 1 Pet.1:19).
- **The Mechanics of salvation** is Grace by Faith in the gospel message.

(Rom.1:16) “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to **everyone who believes**, to the Jews first and also to the Greeks.”

(Eph.2:8-9) “For by **grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is **the gift of God**; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”

(1 John 5:11-13) “And the witness is this that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. **These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.**”

(Gal.6:14) “But may it never be that I should **boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.**” (2 Cor.5:17-21)  
[We are to be an Ambassador of Christ]