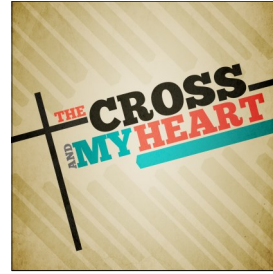


"The Cross Means Mission"

Series: *The Cross and My Heart*
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for his thoughts on various subjects at
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...the cross is also God's _____ invitation to the world.

Note John 12:32-33

Jesus never intended His cross to become a _____ fire that Christ-followers sit around and warm themselves...

He did intend His cross to light a _____ fire in Christ-followers to send us out into a broken and needy world...

God uses the cross to send us out on His mission with:

1. The Right M_____ (*note II Corinthians 5:14*)

Note II Corinthians 5:11a

The only _____ and pure reason to invite others to place their faith and trust in Jesus is because we are motivated by God's love.

Note II Corinthians 5:14 and Luke 12:50—"controls..."compels"
= same word Jesus used to describe His commitment to the mission of the cross.

Note I John 4:19

The cross is the e_____ of God's love...and
also God puts His love in our _____...(*note Romans 5:5*).

God's love = choosing for the highest _____ of another.

2. The Right M_____ (*note II Corinthians 5:14-15*)

The message of the cross is exactly what a broken, dysfunctional, and
_____ world needs to hear and embrace.

Note II Corinthians 5:17

How does God r_____ sinful people to Himself? Two
complementary ways:

(continued on reverse)

- A. N_____ (note II Corinthians 5:19a) - we deserve to have our sins calculated and totaled against us, and if that happened, the result would be d_____. (note Psalm 130:3).
- B. P_____ (note II Corinthians 5:21) - "For our sake God actually made the sinless Christ to be sin with our sins. The God who _____ to reckon our sins to us reckoned them to Christ instead." (Stott) "...Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your _____. You took on You what was mine; You set on me what was Yours. You became what You were not, that I might become what I was not." (Luther). "Justification means this m_____: that Christ takes our place and we take His." (Brunner).

3. The Right M_____ (note II Corinthians 5:18-20)

God has _____ this amazing work of the cross by His Son to be communicated...by His Church, the community of the cross.
 Christ _____ completed the work of forgiveness and restoration.
 It's our job to share this _____ good news with people unconnected to Jesus.

We're Christ's "ambassadors" = personal _____, representatives, messengers. It's people God has entrusted this eternally consequential _____ to.
 _____ are God's method. God uses _____ to reach people.

So how is the Cross intersecting my heart?

- Let's be ambassadors of the greatest good news there is.
- Let's invite people we know to "come and see". That's what the _____ is all about.
- Let's allow the cross of Jesus to send us out on our mission to people apart from a life-changing relationship with God...

Use the connect card to tell us about a commitment you made today, and tell someone you know or a Pastor or Staff person at Riverside about the spiritual commitment you have made today!