

## THE CROSS IN MARK'S GOSPEL.

Easter time, when we “survey the wondrous cross”.

Look at the cross in Mark's gospel.

The bible is really a library of books written over 1500 years. The gospels existed separately before they were collected together.

Mark's gospel was written by Mark but really you can see the shadow of Peter behind it. There are eye-witness touches which go back to him. It was written for Gentiles rather than Jews -

Mark gives the meaning of every Aramaic word for those who would not understand.

He explains Jewish customs, 7v1-4.

It was probably written in the first instance for readers at Rome. Some words occur with “Latinisms” e.g. kenturion instead of the usual Greek, and cf. 15v21; Rom. 16v13.

So what did Mark want us to understand about the cross? I want to take you through the gospel. Mark gives us

### **a) A PICTURE OF THE CROSS.**

1v9-11. Jesus' baptism and 10v38. Shows Jesus' identification with sinners. For them he had come and for their salvation. To die for them. “with whom I am well pleased”, Is42v1. The suffering servant of Isaiah.

### **b) THE PROSPECT OF THE CROSS.**

Clearly this is what lay before him. There are little pointers. 2v20/Is.53v8.

5 controversy stories which end with 3v6, the shadow of the cross.

### **c) THE PROPHECY OF THE CROSS.**

8v31-33 and 9v7 “Listen to him”, or What he says is true”. Also 9v12;31; 10v33-34. He knew why he had come. The cross was necessary as we shall see.

### **d) THE PRICE OF THE CROSS.**

10v45 give his life a ransom - the lutron, the ransom to redeem, to set free from sin's guilt and penalty. He had to pay the price.

### **e) THE PLAN OF THE CROSS.**

14v21 “as was written of him”. God's plan in the OT.

### **f) THE PRECIOUSNESS OF THE CROSS.**

see also 14v22-24 “shed for many” as the substitute. For you?  
His willingness expressed in 14v46.

### **g) THE PLIGHT OF THE CROSS.**

15v33-34. HE experienced God-forsakeness. 2Cor 5v21.

### **h) THE POWER OF THE CROSS.**

15v37-38 veil rent. The way to God opened up back into fellowship. He experienced divine forsakeness that we might be brought into divine fellowship.

We enter into the good of it when we believe, 1v15; 2v5; 5v34,36; 9v42; 10v52; 16v16.