

## **“The Point of the Cross”**

Jeff Harmon

07/11/10

- I. The cross of Jesus Christ is central to what we believe and teach at this church
  - a. The cross of Jesus Christ is unavoidable
    - i. Without the cross:
      1. no forgiveness of sins
      2. no freedom from sins
      3. no resurrection
      4. faith crumbles and is meaningless
  - b. Jesus came and died for us on the cross
- II. Crucifixion
  - a. Roman Empire perfected crucifixion
  - b. One of the most excruciating forms of death
  - c. *Excruciating* derives from *crucifixion*
  - d. Romans used on the worst criminals; not their own
  - e. Facts about Crucifixion
    - i. Large nails were driven through the forearm and feet
    - ii. Asphyxiation often was the cause of death
    - iii. It was used to establish fear
    - iv. Often occurred in public places
- III. Jesus' Crucifixion
  - a. Flogged with leather whip
  - b. A crown made with three inch thorns were embedded into His head
  - c. These acts were predicted in Isaiah
  - d. Until we understand what Jesus endured on the cross, we won't know what He did on the cross
  - e. Why would God choose such a horrific manner to sacrifice His Son for us?  
Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
    - i. The reason Jesus went through such a horrific death was for us to be reminded how horrible our sin is and how much we need a savior
    - ii. He chose to die at the specific moment in time while we were still sinners
    - iii. He wanted us to see how He can take a horrendous event and turn it into the greatest love story
    - iv. Unless we accept God's forgiveness, our lives are unacceptable