

The Cross (Num. 21:4-9)

Today's message is entitled the cross. Today we are observing Easter Sunday. May this be the time that you once again place Jesus' resurrection inside your heart. May it also be a day of thanksgiving for the fact that he has resurrected you in Christ Jesus. Of course there is no hope for you if you are not saved. Many people of the world place their hope on earth but that cannot be true hope for you. All mankind has no choice but to spiritually die, that is why they must have the hope to be saved. This is what is recorded in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 20, But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. He has become the first fruit for us all. In verse 22 it states, For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. It means that all mankind will be made alive. This is the promising word for mankind that has fallen in curses. Without this there is no hope for mankind. That is why today's passage speaks about Jesus' resurrection and the life he has given. Also in today's passage he was able to correlate John chapter verses 14 and 15, And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up. That whoever believes in him may have eternal life. Today's passage correlates to Jesus' cross. It means that those who looked upon the cross of Jesus gained eternal life and they were healed and this is the overall fundamental message of the bible. It is the fundamental message of the bible that those who believe in Christ will gain eternal life and be healed. Also, today's passage holds to the fundamental message that all mankind must hear. You must be able to come to the fundamental answer to your life if you are able to hold to his word as the covenant or if you come to realize it. Many people look down upon the death of Jesus Christ. There are many people who go against the death of Jesus Christ in this world. When we speak of Jesus Christ many people look down at us and they think of us as fools. But whoever does not know the mystery of Christ and cannot enjoy it will be in a desolate state. What's the point of being so intelligent if you end up in hell? That's such a foolish act. It's such a fool for one to gain all the nobel prizes in this world and have all the knowledge of this world if they do not know of Christ. Once they face their own death they will come to know the truth but because as they live their lives on earth they will say such nonsense about it. Of course for us we have come to uncover this before our own death. That is why we call this by grace and it is the mystery that God has given to us. It is very simple: all you have to do is acknowledge that hell exists. It is wisdom and knowledge for you to come to acknowledge that hell does exist. This is what it says in 1 Corinthians 1:18, For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For those who are perishing they are such fools but yet for those who are perishing they see the word of the cross as folly. The people of the world do not know this mystery. They do not need to simply study so well or research this but they simply need to acknowledge that hell does exist. There are so many people who give this testimony that they are able to go and visit hell and they are able to see how tremendous it is if they are only able to come to know of this. There are so many things in the world that are great on earth but yet they are not saved. It is all in vain. That is why if you are able

to escape death itself then you do not need to believe in Jesus. However, there is no one on earth that is able to escape their own death. There is a story regarding siddhartha. There was a widow and her son passed away so she went to Siddhartha and asked what she could do. It's not your average problem, the fact that she was a widow and her son passed away. Siddhartha gave her the advise why don't you go find a household where no one has passed away, receive a cup of rice from them, and make the rice to serve to the ancestors. It was a special ritual that he requested for her to follow. This is a story that I heard many years ago. Of course the widower was in a desperate state so she went through the neighborhood seeking after a household where no one passed away and she was able to receive a cup of rice. Of course she was not able to find a household where none of the members passed away before sunset. So Siddhartha told her of course everyone dies and that is the answer that she received. I heard the story of Siddhartha through the testimony of the monk. The testimony said that for Christians, it is so easy to receive answers because it is written in the Bible. The monk said that the Bible says to just believe in Him and they would gain eternal life. For Buddhism, it is so complicated but yet there is no answer. There are those in the world that ask how you could believe the ways of a Christianity or Buddhism. But they will come to realize this when they face their death. Who would be able to say this if Siddhartha or Socrates could not say it themselves? No man can believe in the words of someone who says that. Why don't you go in the streets and say that you are the way? No mankind has ever said that and they would not believe it. Yet, we have so much evidence and proof that Jesus is the Christ. It is the proof that Jesus is the Christ and has created all things so that when you pray, he will give you answers. Therefore, we need salvation and the promise of the resurrection. There is no other answer except for this. Even Siddhartha did not have the solution. What about Jesus? He would have raised the widow's son from the dead. There is no reason for the widow to walk around the neighborhood for if she goes to Jesus, he would be healed. Jesus was able to heal all those who were demon possessed and raise people from the dead. How thankful are we that he has given you this answer. The resurrection is your only hope. May this become a week of thanksgiving.

1. Serpent

Regarding this tremendous word of the cross, the "serpent" is a significant part of it. The serpent itself has a spiritual meaning behind it. If you simply think of the serpent itself, it is quite disgusting but yet the people of God were healed when they looked at the bronze serpent. The Lord told him to make the bronze serpent so that all those who looked at the serpent were saved. I for myself could not understand this passage in the past, wondering how one could be saved by simply looking at a bronze serpent. After understanding the accurate gospel, I could realize and understand it. I was able to catch on in God's message that you must first acknowledge that you have been bitten. You could never re-interpret this to say that the serpent had healed them. We are God's people who must hold to the covenant that must hold to the commission and covenant that we must save those who are perishing by crushing the serpent's head. Is it right to say that it is the serpent that saved them? They were in the process of going to the

land of Canaan to fulfill the works of world evangelism as they crushed the serpent's head. Today's message that you must be able to take is that you must never forget that you have been bitten by the serpent. You must acknowledge this truth. Acknowledge that you have been bitten for then God will heal you. The Lord says that you must be able to repent for He will heal you. To relay this message to His people, He told Moses to make the serpent and set it on a pole. The Lord says that whoever looks at the serpent and repents, He will save them. You must acknowledge this as well. You have been bitten by the serpent. Mankind has been bitten by the serpent and nothing else. It is the next thing to think that things are not taking place which is why you are conflicted. You have no choice to wonder if it happened because of this or that, but it is because you have been bitten by the serpent, Satan. Before being bitten by the serpent, you have no time to think that it is because of this or that. That is why it is to say that being bitten by the serpent is the fundamental problem. That serpent is at work on you even now. He is the one that hinders your relationship with God. That is why it is all a spiritual problem because if you were not bitten, then you would not have spiritual problems. Physical matters, financial difficulties, and children problems are all spiritual problems. That is why everything will be completely resolved when you crush the serpent's head. Everything began because you were bitten by the serpent. That is why you must continuously crush the serpent's head as you enjoy Christ. It is so clear and simple. Simply crush the serpent's head. All of the problems that you face are the works of the serpent, Satan. The Lord says that you must acknowledge that you have been bitten. Your spiritual eyes must be opened to this. This is when you come to the answer. That is how you uncover aht Chris is your answer. Without that there is no spiritual strength. In the past, when we did not know the accurate gospel, we lacked the understanding of Christ. Even when we read the Bible, we lacked knowledge of Christ. Of course, it's not an exaggeration to say that you were able to know the work of Satan. That was for my case. And it has become such a taboo to even use the word Satan or evil spirit. And there was a mindset that many had that when the word Satan or evil spirit was used in sermons, it was not a great sermon. And it was only utilized amongst organizations in which the believers were so centered on prayer. But this was the spiritual reality of the time. But it was Jesus Christ who was able to cast out many demons. Of course, the apostles were able to do the same work. And of course, many people read Genesis 3, yet it does not hit their heart. That's in the past, but congregation members, you must not be like this. You have no choice but to hold onto something other than Christ, and that is such a foolish thing to do if your spiritual eyes are not open. That is why Christ will not be 100% for you. And if Christ is not 100% to you, that is religion. And if Christ is not 100%, you will have no choice but to do it on your own, and it cannot be the work of God. You must be able to change yourself. The first message God gives us today is that you must acknowledge that you have been bitten by the serpent, Satan. And you must acknowledge that you are being bitten by the serpent, Satan, every single day. Isn't that the truth? And even if it's not taking place for you, may you pray so that you can hold onto the covenant of Jesus Christ. And of course, even if we are being bitten by the serpent, we always utilize a

different solution other than Jesus Christ. And you will be easily deceived, but if you hold onto Christ regardless of all the problems, it will be resolved. Time will not stop, and if time does go on, if you simply hold to this, it will all be resolved. And if you use something else to resolve, in God's perspective, it has never been resolved from the start. If you do not win the spiritual battle by confessing the name of Jesus Christ, it will not be resolved, just like the nonbelievers. They live that life. Can God view that and truly say it has been resolved for you? Yet, many people live their life like this. That is why in today's Bible passage, the word that God gives is that you must be able to first acknowledge that you have been bitten by the serpent, Satan. And I for myself in the past was completely dimmed by the work of the evil spirit. And I told you many times in the past, because my eyes were spiritually dim, I was not able to see those who were demon-possessed around me, but after the Gospel, my spiritual eyes began to open to acknowledge that. It was a spiritual problem, yet I only gave medication as the solution. And of course, they were healing taking the medication, but even with that alone, I was being deceived that I could fix them. It is only through Jesus Christ that everything is resolved. Even to the very end, they were bitten by the serpent, Satan. Because they have not yet come to the solution of Christ, they cannot do only Jesus Christ. We say that we have heard this accurate Gospel for 20 to 30 years. And there are those who have heard the Gospel less than that. But may you all come to this answer. I for myself have not completely come to the answer. That's the same for Apostle Paul. Of course, we're heading towards the conclusion of the answer. But we must come to the solution to the extent of overcoming our own problems. If you come to the answer, even if you face hindrance, it will not be a problem to you. That means you have surpassed your own problems. That is when you are able to say that you have conquered it all with your own mouth. Of course, you're not resolving all the problems. You will still face problems. But it doesn't matter if you face a problem because you will conquer it all. That will only begin when you acknowledge that you have been bitten by the serpent, Satan.

2. The Answer

The second point is "The Answer." Even today in the passage, it records that they resented and went against Moses and God. They went against God and said, "Why did you lead us into the wilderness to die?" In the last sentence of Verse 4, it is stated, "And the people became patient on the way." They circled around their way. When God told them to go directly, they circled around. It has already been finished and concluded with the fact that they could not enter in 40 years. That's why they resented God and went against Moses. Moses did nothing according to his own will. He simply followed God. The people said in Verse 5, "There is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." It's truly outrageous what they said to Moses. They no longer like manna. It's shocking. It records to what extent mankind will go when they don't enjoy Christ. You must not be like this. It's not because they were careless but because they didn't enjoy Christ. What's more important is the reason why they repeatedly resented the Lord. Starting from the Red Sea all the way to the wilderness, they continuously resented and went against God. In last week's

passage, it spoke about the earth's mouth opening and swallowing all those people. Even though the Israelites witnessed this and cried for their lives, the next day, they complained to God. These were people who ran away hearing the cries of the Israelites being swallowed by the earth. Yet, why do they do this again? Of course, the land was hot with a lot of sun, sand, and rocks, but it was the bronze serpent that bit and killed the people. Where did the serpent come from when there was only sun, sand, and rocks? But when Moses prayed, the serpents went away. But they continuously went against the Lord.

Why do you think they did that? Isn't it quite strange and such a serious matter? It is because they did not come to the answer. They did not come to the answer that they needed to enter the Land of Canaan. God's message did not become their own covenant inside of their hearts. That word should have come inside their hearts and be living and acting, yet that did not happen. The words should have been the guidance to their lives, yet it was not their covenant. That is why they continuously and repeatedly went against the Lord. It is the same for us as well. If you do not come to the answer of world evangelism for the rest of your life, you have no choice but to complain to the Lord. You have no choice but to make problems even inside of the church. All the things you complain about to the Lord are the physical things you desire. It is because you have not yet come to the answer of world evangelism to go and save America, Latin America, and the remnants. What will happen if you come to the answer? Of course, you still face physical difficulties, but you will not resent the Lord. Because of that, there will not be any incidents that occur. There will not be any repeated problems. All you will do is pray. God may not quickly resolve it for you. You may just simply wait for God as you pray. You must not be just like them. It is far more important to head toward God's direction rather than resolving your physical needs and problems. It will be difficult, but you will not go against God or Moses. God does not need your diligence. God only wants you to follow after him. When you follow after him, you will become his great servant. You will receive the historical answer of this age. This is why it is so easy for you to receive the answer worth 100 years. You cannot receive the answer of 100 years the next day, but as you follow after his message and his word, you will receive the answer of 100 years throughout your life. Among us, there are also many of us preparing to receive the answer worth 100 years. It is not difficult. World evangelism is not so difficult and God will never yield anything for the sake of that. God himself waited for his own people for 40 years, but he never gave up on them as they went into the Land of Canaan. So all you must do is follow his word. It is very simple. That is why for mankind, as long as we understand and follow the gospel and the word of God, we will live such a simple life. God's conclusion is that because we have not enjoyed Jesus Christ as our covenant and because we have not yet crushed the head of Satan and we have not yet aligned ourselves to world evangelism, all problems have come across us. When you truly hold onto this as your own, you will have complete liberation from all, including your physical life. You must enjoy Christ and personally align your life to God's message. For the church that proclaims the gospel, there is a stream. That means that the word of God is living and active. That means that God is at work upon the church that pro-

claims the gospel because of the word. The fact that the church continuously proclaims and tries to proclaim the gospel is why God is at work. For the church that proclaims the gospel, there is a stream that God will lead them through. They will grow and advance. It is not your average change. It is the same for those who enjoy Christ. Their spiritual realm, as well as enjoyment, will deepen and they will go into the depths of it. If your prayer has not yet advanced, you have not gone into the depths of enjoying Christ. If you have been saved but your spiritual state has not yet changed, it means you have not gone into the depths of the gospel. For those who enjoy Christ, their spiritual realm must not stop. It will continually change and grow. This is God's will. God is continuously guiding you. When you enjoy Christ, God is leading your life. All you must do is align your life's direction to God's message of world evangelism. God will follow your time schedule and will answer you. May you hold onto the covenant of the cross of Jesus Christ as you look upon the resurrection day today. It says that for those who are perishing, the word of the cross is folly to them. We do not see that as folly. We may not and should not follow after that. You must hold onto the covenant of Christ to which his power is always upon you. To continually receive answers every single day, I myself have not experienced that. Yet, there is something I can tell you. Answers will continuously come and doors will open. That I can say with confidence before you. Not every day, but it will continue. For those who enjoy Christ, they can see this blessing. I cannot confidently say that I can see the blessing, but I hold onto the direction that God has given to me for the church. I have full conviction of that. To the extent that God answers you, you will be able to pray before him. You can never draw the big pictures without the answers. According to the answers that God gives to you, you will draw the big pictures. May this blessing be upon you. The only power God has given to you is the cross of Jesus Christ and the resurrection of Christ. May you have this blessing to crush the serpent's head.