
A wooden cross is positioned on the left side of the image, extending from the top to the bottom. The background is a soft-focus sky with light and dark clouds. The title text is written in a dark, stylized font with a white glow effect, positioned to the right of the cross.

*The
Agony
& Glory
of
the Cross*

by Charles B. Hodge, Jr.¹

The Holiness of God



We must understand
what “Holy” is.



We Must Understand What “Holiness” is.

- “But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy’” (1 Pet. 1:15-16).
- Holiness is the Transcendence of God—*above and beyond us as humans.*
- God is “Holy, Holy, Holy” (Is 6:3) and not just “love, love, love” or “law, law, law.”
- We must revere holiness in order to understand God.



We Must See God as He Really Is.

- We must not make God in “our image” but allow Him to remake us into “His image.”
- Some people seek to “feel” God without bothering to “know” or “obey” Him.
- “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (Jn 17:3).



We Must Stand in Awe of God.

- In one sense, God does not have “attributes” that can be separated from one another.
- God's name is “holy” (Is 57:15); He is “otherness” and “differentness” from us.
- He follows no standard because *He Himself IS the standard!*
- We must be filled with wonder to see such perfection and unity.



We Must Stand in Awe of God.

- God is never at “cross purposes” with Himself—all He does is right, just and true.
- Holiness is the characteristic that separates Him from all of creation—He is Creator and we are the creation.
- However, God relates His nature to us in “human terms” (*anthropomorphisms*).
- Holiness defines and empowers all attributes of God—love, righteousness, truth, etc.



We Must Be Holy, for He is Holy.

- This is our goal as those made in “His image” yet we have failed to seek it fully.
- Holiness is a position, a practice and a process:
 - Holiness is not the way to Christ; *Christ is the way to holiness!*
 - The Christian is not ruined by living in the world, but by allowing the world to live in him!
 - Holiness is not only what God gives me, but also it is what I manifest in the life that God has given me.

We Must Never Exchange Holiness for Cheap, Fake Spirituality.

- Spirituality *can be faked and bragged about*—holiness cannot.
- Holiness is essential in the presence of God:
 - Without holiness we cannot see God (Heb 12:14)
 - Our hearts must be blameless in holiness before God (1 Thess 3:12, 13).
 - We are to be perfect in holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor. 7:1).
 - We are to be partakers of His holiness (Heb 12:10).

Six Hours (2)



The Final
Three Hours



The Final Three Hours

- Unnatural Quietness and Darkness from Noon to 3:00 PM.
- Texts describing the *last three hours* (*READ*):
 - Matt 27:45-50
 - Mk 15:33-37
 - Lk 23:44-46
 - Jn 19:28-30



Four More Statements on the Cross

5th Statement: “*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*”

Interpreted, this means, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matt. 27:46; Mk 15:34).

- God and Jesus were separated.
- Separation from God was a deeper wound than any punishment man could inflict.
- Jesus' cry shouts out about the depth of man's fall, his lostness, and his helplessness.



Four More Statements on the Cross

- Jesus conquered sin and death
(Heb. 2:14-18).
- Christians no longer need to fear Satan, sin, or even death because those enemies are now defeated
(1 Cor. 15:21-26, 51-58).



Four More Statements on the Cross

6th Statement: “I thirst” (Jn 19:28, 29)

- The “Water of Life” **was thirsty** (Jn 6:51-58; Ps 69:21).
- Jesus did not use His divinity to override His humanity.
- “But everyone who saw him was even more horrified because He suffered until He no longer looked human” (Is 52:14).
- The Jews looked for a Messiah but the rejected & crucified Him when He came.



Four More Statements on the Cross

7th Statement: “It is finished!” (Jn 19:30)

- The task is done!
- God can now be just when justifying sinners!
- The Lamb of God took away the sin of the world!
- It will take an eternity to comprehend what occurred that day at the Cross.



Four More Statements on the Cross

7th Statement: “It is finished!” (Jn 19:30)

- What man could not finish, Jesus did.
 - The mouth of Satan was shut (Rev. 12:9-11)
 - The Law of Moses was nailed to the Cross.
 - The New Law of Christ is in effect (Heb 8:6-13; 9:12-18; 10:4-14, 18-31)



Four More Statements on the Cross

8th Statement: I. “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His last” (Lk 23:46).


- Speaking in a loud voice, Jesus wanted all to hear!
- He commended His spirit to God—*not just body, breath, but everything!*

Jesus Spoke More of being Glorified than being Crucified

- “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You” (Jn 17:1).
- “Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was” (Jn 17:5).
- God transformed the instrument of death—the Cross—into an instrument of life.
- It is the divine magnetism drawing all men unto Himself.
- The person worthy of glory gave it back to the father. *So should we* (Gal 6:14).

The Agony & Glory of the Cross

DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How can we say that God does not have “attributes”?
- What is the difference between “holiness” and the popular understanding of “spirituality”?
- Did God forsake Jesus while He was on the Cross? *Explain.*
- Let us review the last four recorded statements of Jesus while He was on the Cross. What was the *significance* of each one?
- Why is it important that Jesus' death not only conquered sin but also conquered death?
- Why did so many obey the gospel on Pentecost?

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