

A wooden cross is positioned vertically on the left side of the image, extending from the top to the bottom. The background is a soft-focus sky with light, wispy clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the cross.

*The
Agony
& Glory
of
the Cross*

by Charles B. Hodge, Jr.¹

The Statements at the Cross

Seven Statements
from the Cross



Seven Statements *from* the Cross

Texts:

- Matthew 27
- Mark 15
- Luke 23
- John 19



Seven Statements from the Cross

- **FORGIVENESS**: “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).
- This was a prayer, not a declaration.
- Jesus desired mercy for His tormentors.
- Such a prayer for executioners was unthinkable, rare, and from a pure heart—greatest show of forgiveness that the world has ever known.



Seven Statements *from* the Cross

- **SALVATION**. Jesus said to the thief beside Him, “. . . today you shall be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43).
- The statements were for the crowd in general and the thief in particular.
- Jesus could forgive sin-soaked sinners (Matthew 9:6; Mark 2:10; Luke 5:23, 24).
- As Isaiah said, Jesus was numbered with the transgressors.



Seven Statements from the Cross

- RESPONSIBILITY: Jesus said, “Woman, behold your son!” (John 19:26, 27).
- Jesus called Mary, “Woman” not “mother.”
- Jesus called John to care for her during this time of agony at the cross (Luke 2:35).
- In spiritual matters, unbelieving family does not count—believing disciples count.



Seven Statements from the Cross

- PATHOS. “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46).
- God did not abandon Jesus; God abandoned sin! (Psalm 22:1).
- Cruel people thought Jesus called Elijah for help; Jesus called God in his loneliness.



Seven Statements from the Cross

- THIRST: After six long hours, He said, “I thirst” (John 19:28; KJV).
- Jesus fulfilled Psalm 69:21.
- Jesus refused a drink to dull his senses, but requested one to keep them after all was done (John 19:28).



Seven Statements from the Cross

- VICTORY: He said, “It is finished!” (John 19:30).
- With one Greek word— *tetelestai* (meaning, “It is finished!”)— Jesus sums up the entire scheme of redemption!
- Jesus completed God's will and redeemed sinful man once and for all.



Seven Statements from the Cross

- FAITH: Jesus said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit” (Luke 23:46).
- Jesus died in victorious, joyous faith!
- “No one has taken it [My life] away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again” (John 10:18).
- Jesus, the “Word” (John 1:1) obeyed the word in life and death (Psalm 31:5).

The Statements at the Cross

Seven Statements
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Seven Statements to the Cross

- **“COME DOWN”**: People said, “If You are the Son of God, come down from the **CROSS**” (Matthew 27:39, 40).
- “. . . come down from the cross, so that we may see and believe!” (Mark 15:32).
- **People with demands cannot and will not believe.**



Seven Statements to the Cross

- **CHANGE**: A thief said, “Remember me” (Luke 23:42).
- The selfish life of one impenitent thief ended in his selfish death.
- The other thief repented and secured forgiveness and paradise.




Seven Statements to the Cross

- **MAGIC**: The people said, “Are you not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!” (Luke 23:39).
- “Amaze us with a trick,” they were saying; but Jesus is not a magician.
- Some men would rather die than think, trust and obey.



Seven Statements to the Cross

- **GAWKERS**: Others said, “Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him” (Matthew 27:47–49; see Mark 15:36).
- Bystanders (thrill-seekers) see everything and observe nothing.
- They see all that happens and understand little.



Seven Statements to the Cross

- **GAMBLERS**: The soldiers said of Jesus' tunic, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it" (John 19:24).
- Jesus was dying for our sins, while men were gambling for His clothes.
- A man can gain the whole world and lose his soul (Matthew 16:24–26).
- We know the price of everything and the value of nothing.



Seven Statements to the Cross

- **TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE:** Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus asked boldly for Christ's body (John 19:38–40; Luke 23:50–53).
- Two men who could have done so much did so little!
- Jesus asks us for our lives; we are only willing to perfume His body!
- Their action did take nerve, but it takes true courage to confess Jesus, to make Jesus who He is—Lord.



Seven Statements to the Cross

- **CONCLUSION TIME**: A centurion, observing what had happened, said, “Truly this man was the Son of God” (Mark 15:39).
- He watched every movement; he heard every word.
- Jesus was different; this cross was different.
- Unknowingly, this honest man immortalized himself.



Seven Statements to the Cross

- What the world, the crowds, and the enemies totally missed, this man saw!
- He drew the only conclusion that one can honestly draw.
- Either Jesus is the Son of God, or He is not!
- The centurion made his decision; we must make ours!


The Statements at the Cross

DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS



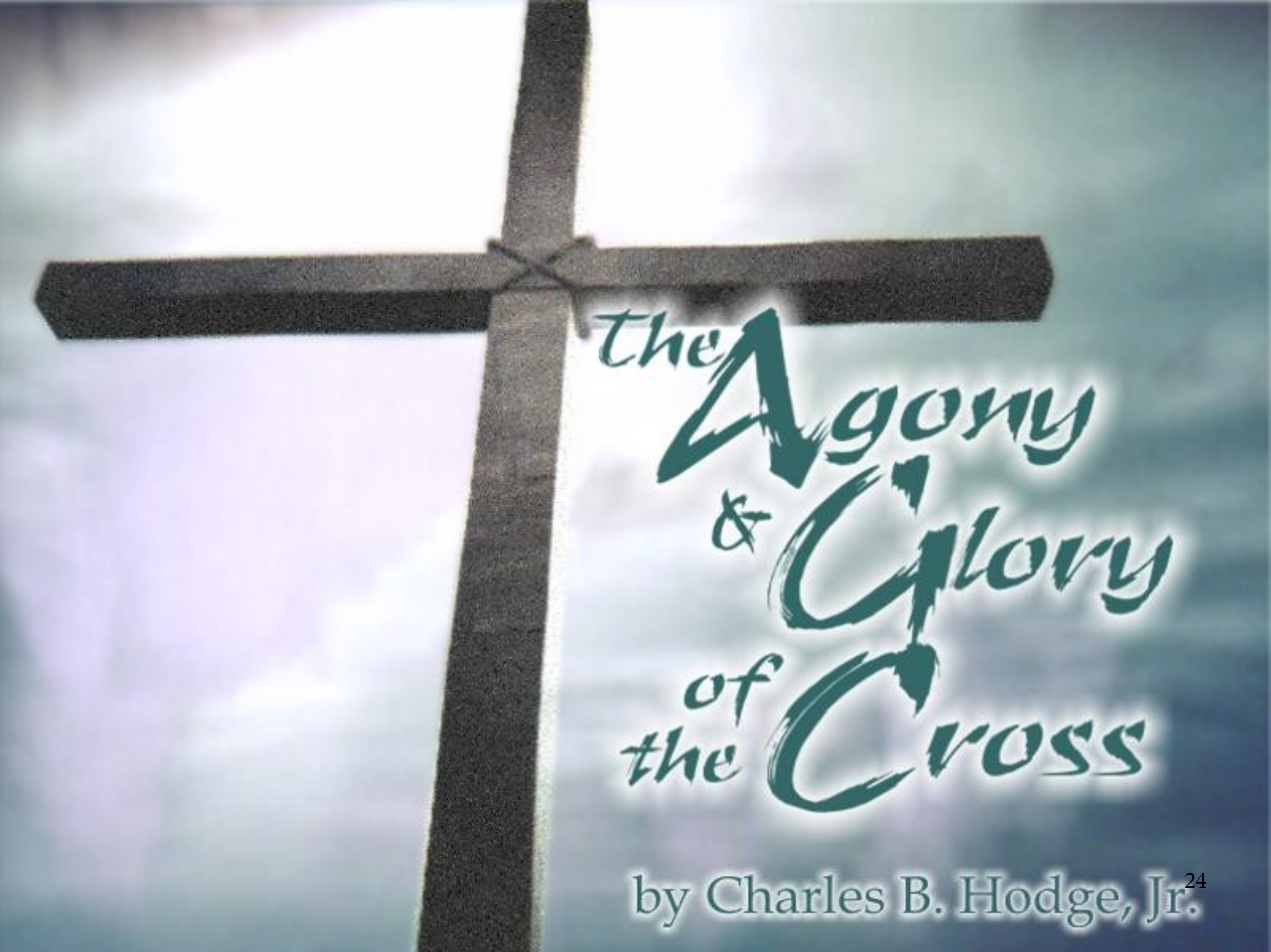
Discussion Questions

- How does the Cross appeal to our emotions? Our logic?
- How does the cross appeal to our human dignity and moral obligations?
- List the statements Jesus made while on the cross. *What can we learn from each one?*
- Consider statements made by those who were watching the crucifixion. *What comments might you have made?*



Discussion Questions

- Why did listeners think Jesus was calling for Elijah? *What did they expect to happen?*
- What impact did the crucifixion have on the various onlookers?
- What impact does the crucifixion have on us today?

A large, dark wooden cross is the central focus, set against a background of a cloudy sky. The cross is made of two thick, weathered beams. The text is overlaid on the right side of the cross.

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