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, calligraphic 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 Death of Jesus



What Other Religions
Do Not Have



What Other Religions Do Not Have

- Texts: Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:30
- “And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His last” (Luke 23:46).
- What does Christianity have that other religions *do not and cannot have*?
- JESUS CHRIST AND HIS CROSS!
- We cannot fully understand the CROSS until we stand under it.



What Other Religions Do Not Have

- God cannot and will not save man apart from Christ and His cross.
- If His cross was necessary, *so is ours.*
- For those who live in Christ, *the judgment is already past.*
- To those outside salvation, *the judgment is yet to come.*
- God has given us Jesus; we give Jesus back to God through Christlike living.



What Other Religions Do Not Have

- Jesus was not on the cross for just six hours; *He was on that cross for thirty-three years.*
- Likewise, our salvation is not for a moment, but for a *crucified lifetime.*
- Some speak of “cheap grace,” but there is no “cheap grace.”
- God’s grace comes to us only through our *obedient faith.*
- Grace does not *overlook, evade, forget, or repeal* God’s truth, wrath, or punishment.



What Other Religions Do Not Have

- Grace absorbs the *price, penalty, and punishment* for sin.
- Every impenitent sinner and every sin is punished—*either in Christ or in hell.*
- The only thing Christ gives out is crosses; the only thing the church has to give out is crosses.
- The church, sadly, is trying to give out *everything except crosses.*
- Everything of God is in Christ, *not out of Christ.*

The Death of Jesus



ETERNAL FACT #1:
JESUS DIED



JESUS DIED

- God, being God, cannot die—*yet Jesus died!*
- Concerning His death, we must know *that* He died and *why* He died (for our sins).
- Scholars are more interested in *how* He died.
- We know that Pilate was shocked at how quickly Jesus died (Mark 15:44).
- Still, he did not doubt that He was dead.



JESUS DIED

- The other two being crucified had to have their legs broken to bring their deaths (John 19:31–34).
- The Holy Spirit thought this was good information for us.
- Otherwise, it would not be part of the Scriptures.
- The Bible never says that Christ *lived* for us or *worked* for us, but the Bible definitely declares that Jesus *died* for us.



JESUS DIED

- The cross provides God's answer to the problem of sin.
- Some think Jesus died from exhaustion.
- He had been put through a grueling experience.
- He had been deprived of sleep, barely fed, and brutalized in both Jewish and Roman trials.
- One scholar concluded that Jesus had walked 2.6 miles during these trials.



JESUS DIED

- Do not forget the harsh scourging.
- Exhausted, Jesus was unable to carry His cross.
- He chose when He would die, and He chose when to be resurrected.
- Jesus had the **power** to lay down His life and the **power** to take it back (John 10:15–18).
- Jesus had control over His own execution.
- Having said, “It is finished!”—*having met God’s total demand*—Jesus bowed His head and gave up His **spirit** (John 19:30).



JESUS DIED

- Others think Jesus died from a broken heart.
- He was physically depleted.
- He was emotionally drained.
- His greatest agony was in Gethsemane.
- Luke tells us that His sweat became like drops of blood (Luke 22:44).
- Such is a rare phenomenon (called *hematidrosis* or *hemohidrosis*).
- Jesus was to receive God's holy anger poured out upon Him.



JESUS DIED

- One apostle had betrayed Him, another apostle had denied Him, and the remaining apostles had deserted Him.
- Humanly speaking, Jesus had been left alone.
- “He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11).
- He was crucified in God’s chosen city, Jerusalem.
- Jesus even rejected the mild analgesic offered early in the crucifixion process (Matthew 27:34).



JESUS DIED

- Others think Jesus died from a ruptured heart.
- His quick death does indicate a catastrophic terminal event.
- He was crushed for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:5).
- Few men were more mistreated than Jesus.
- Whether He died of cardiac rupture or of cardiopulmonary failure, the vital fact is *that* He died, not *how* He died.
- Roman guards did not leave their victims *until they were sure death had occurred*.
- JESUS DIED!

The Death of Jesus



ETERNAL FACT #2:
JESUS DIED for ME



JESUS DIED for ME

- Pilate would not have released the body for burial *unless* he was sure Jesus was dead (Luke 23:50–56).
- Pilate never doubted that Jesus was dead.
- That Jesus died is historical (abstract).
- That Jesus died for me is personal (salvational).
- It is not enough to believe that Jesus died; *I must believe that Jesus died for me!*
- Everything Jesus did on the cross, *He did for me!*



JESUS DIED for ME

- This is the gospel.
 - Hear it!
 - Believe it!
 - Obey it (2 Thessalonians 1:8)!
 - Preach it (Mark 16:15, 16)!
 - God loves me!
 - God wants me (John 3:16)!
 - Sing it. . . . Shout it. . . . “I have a Savior!”
- The US has the Declaration of Independence; Christians have the Declaration of Dependence.



JESUS DIED for ME

- Salvation is not *something* you do; it is *Someone* you receive (Matthew 11:28–30).
 - I have been **saved**.
 - I am being **saved**.
 - I will be **saved**.
- Remember this: *Preach the gospel to yourself every day.*
- **It took a cross** *to save us*; **it takes a cross** *to keep us saved.*



JESUS DIED for ME

- Ponder the sovereignty of grace.
- You cannot earn grace—*it is a gift.*
- You cannot buy grace—*it is not for sale.*
- You cannot merit grace—*it is unmerited.*
- You cannot repay grace—*it creates no debt.*
- Grace changes everything—*it brings salvation!*
- Jesus died for my sins (1 Corinthians 15:1–4)!



JESUS DIED for ME

- A little girl heard a sermon on the cross.
- She told the preacher, *“You must love Him more than anything else in the world, since He’s done all that for you.”*
- Yes, we do!
- Unmerited love is not unconditional; *sinner*s cannot be saved remaining in the *“far country”* (Luke 15; KJV).
- Salvation is not by works of merit, yet *Christian love is expressed in good works* (Ephesians 2:8–10).



JESUS DIED for ME

- Authentic love makes demands; *its conditions are not for the childish.*
- Christianity is a gift, *not a bargain.*
- It cost Jesus His life; *it will cost us ours.*
- Grace is not a genie in a bottle; *grace is a cross.*
- Discipleship comes with an awesome price —*your life.*
- One thing that Jesus did not say on the cross is “Mine.”



JESUS DIED for ME

- Who crucified Christ?
 - I DID!
- Who nailed Jesus to the cross?
 - I DID!
- We cannot understand what Christ did for us until we grasp what we did to cause it!
 - *Sin is eternal and heinous; it separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1–3).*
 - *Christ did for us what we could not do.*
 - *Apart from Christ, we can only die in our sins.*



JESUS DIED for ME

- Peter accused his audience of murdering Christ (Acts 2:22–36).
- They had done that physically; *we have done it spiritually.*
- We must grasp the depth of sin to accept the glory of grace.
- If people have not been converted to Christ, they may think they have tried Christianity and failed; *in reality, they have not tried it at all.*



JESUS DIED for ME


- To give yourself and your children a future, give them a cross.
- The crucifixion explains the creation!
- We should remind ourselves:

“Because of me it had to be.”

The Death of Jesus

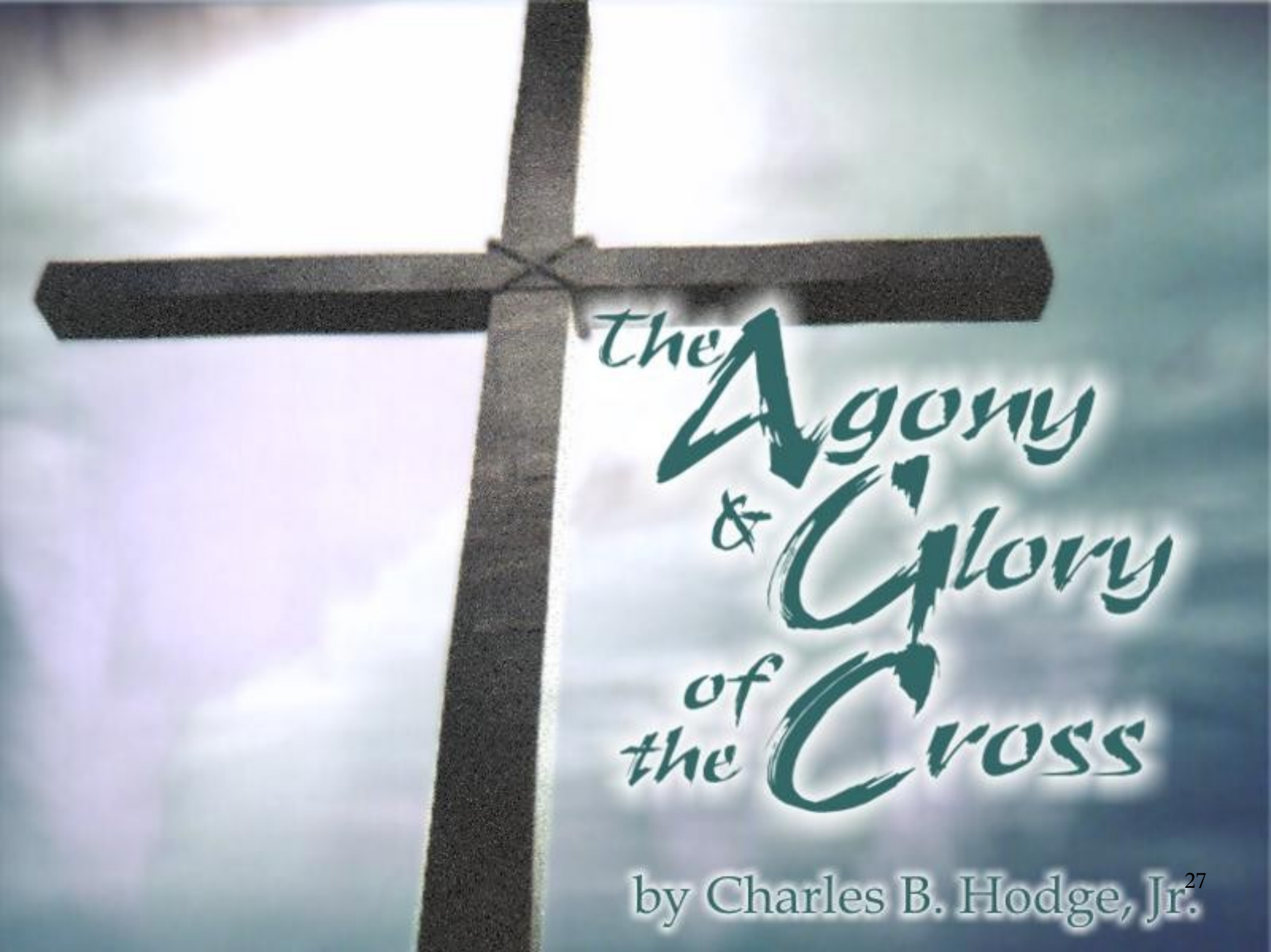


DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does Christianity have that other religions do not and cannot have?
- If Jesus' cross was necessary, why is ours?
- What is the difference between “God's grace” and “cheap grace”?
- How did Jesus die: (1) exhaustion, (2) broken heart, (3) ruptured heart, or (4) something else?
- What is the Declaration of Dependence?

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

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