

**"THE CROSS OF CHRIST IN
THE COUNSEL OF GOD"**

Introduction

1. Surely the greatest sermon by any man
2. Here, our text has deep truths
3. It was greatly blessed – 3,000 souls!

1. CHRIST WAS APPOINTED TO SUFFER BY GOD'S DECREE

- 1) The decree of God
 - (i) what it is
 - (ii) when made
- 2) This vital element in God's decree:
 - (i) ordained by God before Adam existed
 - (ii) shows God's foreknowledge + sovereignty
 - (iii) amazing love of God to men (not devils)
 - (iv) the Cross, the means of our salvation
OBSERVE: The "Open View of God" is not biblical
- 3) Reasons why Peter states this:
 - (i) to show that Christ is the Messiah
 - (ii) to prove the OT prophecies correct
 - (iii) to show them their guilt before God
OBSERVE: The enemies of God fulfil His secret purpose, though unintentionally.
APPLICATION: Marvel at God's wise "counsel"!

2. GOD'S DECREE DOES NOT TAKE AWAY MAN'S GUILT

- 1) 3 possible ways of looking at this doctrine:
 - (i) God has no decree since man is a free agent: Arminianism
 - (ii) Man has no guilt because God's decree is certain: Fatalism
 - (iii) God's decree is fixed but men are accountable. The true view.

- 2) Proof that this is correct: "determinate counsel" / "wicked hands"
OBSERVE: Secret Will v. Revealed Will
- 3) The great fault of these Jews:
 They had not followed the teaching of God's holy Word:
 - (i) all the OT sacrifices
 - (ii) Psalms 22, 69, 109, 110...
 - (iii) Isaiah 53
APPLICATION: If you are ignorant of the Bible you are at great risk of sinning.

3. GOD TURNED THIS GREAT SIN FOR GOOD BY RAISING UP CHRIST FROM THE DEAD

- 1) They were deeply convicted of sin – see their reactions: v.37
- 2) They were convinced of their need for forgiveness: v.38
APPLICATION: Do you not feel your own need?
- 3) What a blessing the Resurrection is:
 - (i) it fulfilled the OT (Ps. 16)
 - (ii) it was impossible that death should hold Christ, the God-Man: v.24
 - (iii) Christ's death was for believers
 - (iv) He rose again to give us life
 - (v) It is a proof of our resurrection too.
OBSERVE: Christ is the first to rise
- 4) Christ's state of death illustrated:
ILLUSTRATION: a soldier
- 5) These hearers repented + professed Christ. Will you?

CONCLUSION

Has the great truth come home to you yet?

PSALM

110: 1 – 5

40: 5 – 8

16: 7 – 11