Dear Friends,

Greetings!

Since we are now in the Lenten Season, it is good for us to refresh the meaning of the cross of Jesus Christ.

The Bridge way Dictionary explains that crucifixion was a form of torture and execution used by the Romans, not by the Jews. Israelites of Old Testament times executed their criminals by stoning them. After an execution, they hung the body of the victim on a tree as a sign to all that he was under the curse and judgment of God.

The Jews considered that Jesus’ hanging on the cross had the same meaning as hanging on a tree. They considered, therefore, that he was under the curse of God. Actually, Jesus did bear the curse of God, but he did so in behalf of sinners, not because of any sin he had committed.

What is the meaning of the cross?

C - Christ died for us
When we focus only on the death of Jesus we will miss the connection that led to his death. Meaning, the death of Jesus can only be understood in the light of his life and ministry.

R - Redeemed by Christ
Redemption is synonymous to the word ransom in the Bible. It was used in the context of a person being freed from the bondage of slavery. The cross symbolizes our freedom from the bondage of sin.

O - Obedience to the will of God
Jesus was tempted not to suffer and die in the cross. He prayed, “if it is possible, let this cup pass over me.” But amidst this temptation, Jesus declared in his prayer, “not my will but thy will be done.”

S - Saved by the grace of God
The cross is a reminder for all of us of the cost of God’s grace. God sent His only begotten Son to save us from damnation. We do not deserve it. But because of God’s great love, He gave us a wonderful gift. Let us be humbled with this reality.

S – Sent out as a disciple who always carry a cross
As a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, He reminds us that as we go out to this world we should deny ourselves and pick up our crosses. This cross is not our personal burden but the burden of others in which we could have refused yet carry it. This is the same with Jesus Christ. What He carried what not His burden but our own.

May God bless us all!

Sincerely,

Rev. Francis Neil G. Jaland-on