April 1, 2012 Dr. Mark D. Cain Palm Sunday

Why The Cross Is The Crux Of The Matter Matthew 27: 35-37, 45-54

(Pew Bible p. 992)

Introduction: "What <u>really</u> matters? What counts? Go to the essence."

-A sincere inquirer to Max Lucado

"I make known to you, brethren, the gospel...by which you are saved...as of <u>first</u> <u>importance</u>...that Christ <u>died</u> for our sins...and that He was <u>raised</u>..." -1 Corinthians 15:1-4

The cross of Jesus Christ is the crux of the matter because it alone opens direct access to God.

- 1. Opens = The separation caused by sin is fully dealt with.
- 2. Direct access to God = available 24/7 to anyone who will trust Jesus as the One who paid their indebtedness.

Jesus paid the debt – but each person must accept the gift.