



FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF GOD IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Moderator's Monthly Reaffirmation Message

April 2026

Reaffirming the Cross and Redemption

Beloved,

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we journey through this year of reaffirmation, we now come to the very heart of our faith. If January established our foundation in Scripture, and March restored our focus on Christ, then April brings us to the centre of divine action. The Cross.

There is no Christianity without the Cross. There is no salvation without the shedding of blood. There is no reconciliation without sacrifice.

The Cross is not a symbol of sentiment. It is the place of substitution.

The apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

We must reaffirm this truth with clarity and conviction in a time where the Cross is being softened, redefined, or at times removed altogether from the message of the Church.

The Cross Was Not an Accident

The Cross was not a tragic end to a promising ministry. It was the predetermined plan of God.

Revelation 13:8 declares Christ as "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Before there was sin in time, there was already provision in eternity.

Jesus did not stumble into Calvary. He stepped into it.

Isaiah 53:10 declares, “Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief.”

This is not a comfortable truth, but it is a necessary one. Redemption was not achieved through divine sympathy, but through divine justice being satisfied.

The Cross reveals both the holiness of God and the seriousness of sin.

The Cross Was a Substitution

At the centre of redemption is substitution. Christ did not die as a martyr. He died as a substitute.

2 Corinthians 5:21 declares, “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

This is the great exchange. Our sin placed upon Him. His righteousness placed upon us.

The Cross answers the question that Isaac asked in Genesis 22, “Where is the lamb?” Abraham responded prophetically, “God will provide Himself a lamb.” On that day, it was a ram. But on Calvary, it was the Lamb.

We must be careful not to reduce the Cross to inspiration. It is substitution. It is atonement. It is the only means by which humanity can be reconciled to God.

The Cross Demands a Response

In our current generation, there is a growing desire for blessing without repentance, for affirmation without transformation, and for grace without surrender.

But the Cross confronts every one of these.

Luke 9:23 records the words of Jesus, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

The Cross is not only something Christ carried. It is something we are called to carry.

It confronts our pride. It challenges our independence. It calls us to die to self.

We cannot preach the benefits of the Cross without also proclaiming the demands of the Cross.

The Cross Is Still the Only Way

In an age of pluralism and religious coexistence, the exclusivity of the Cross is often resisted. Yet Scripture leaves no room for ambiguity.

Acts 4:12 declares, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

The Cross is not one of many ways. It is the only way.

To remove the necessity of the Cross is to remove the necessity of Christ. And to remove Christ is to remove salvation.

This is not arrogance. It is truth.

The Cross Is the Power of God

Romans 1:16 reminds us, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.”

The power is not in our systems, our strategies, or our structures. The power is in the message of Christ crucified.

When the Church loses its confidence in the Cross, it will begin to substitute it with methods that appeal to the flesh but lack the power to transform the soul.

We must return to preaching Christ and Him crucified.

A Call to Reaffirm

Beloved, we are not called to adjust the message of the Cross to suit the times. We are called to uphold it with clarity, conviction, and compassion.

Let us reaffirm:

That sin is real and requires atonement
That Christ died as our substitute
That salvation is found in Him alone
That repentance is still necessary
That the Cross remains the power of God unto salvation

Let this not only be a doctrinal reaffirmation, but a personal one.

We must never move beyond the Cross. We grow deeper into it.

May we never become so familiar with it that we lose our awe.

May we never preach it without feeling its weight.

May we never speak of it without gratitude.

As the hymn writer declared, “When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.”

Yours in His service,

Stafford C Petersen
Moderator
Full Gospel Church of God in Southern Africa