

The Creator on The Cross?



Here is what Paul said to the Corinthians about the Cross.

1 Corinthians 1:17-2:8 says,

“17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

God reveals His secrets to the simple people who love truth, but He hides them from people who reject truth

Mark 4:11-12 Amplified Bible says,

And He said to them, To you has been entrusted the mystery of the kingdom of God [that is, the secret counsels of God which are hidden from the ungodly]; but for those outside [of our circle] everything becomes a parable,

In order that they may [indeed] look and look but not see and perceive, and may hear and hear but not grasp and comprehend, lest haply they should turn again, and it [their willful rejection of the truth] should be forgiven them.

19 For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”

20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The word “called” means to be divinely selected. This is a mystery but we can trust Him because He knows the end from the beginning!

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,
29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

30 [Amplified] But it is from Him that you have your life in Christ Jesus, Whom God made our Wisdom from God, [revealed to us a knowledge of the divine plan of salvation previously hidden, manifesting itself as] our Righteousness [thus making us upright and putting us in right standing with God], and our Consecration [making us pure and holy], and our Redemption [providing our ransom from eternal penalty for sin].

Verse 30 contains many important ideas.

Righteousness. Focusing on the Cross actually puts us in right standing with God, by grace.

Consecration. After we receive the initial saving grace, we need to always know our need to grow in God's character. Notice, this is also by the grace of focusing on the Cross, not by our hard work and just performing better. He does it if we cooperate.

Redemption. Jesus purchased us. He "owns" us as a shepherd owns his sheep. The shepherd provides for every need that the sheep has, protection, food, everything!

Redemption also gives us a guarantee of being in Heaven for Eternity!

Hope. Often we can start a day with a lack of hope, or perhaps we just live there. Righteousness, consecration and redemption will bring us hope. The Cross brings us hope!

31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Just imagine the Apostle Paul travelling from Athens to Corinth thinking about what just happened in Athens. He argued with the people in Athens about the Gospel and just a few got saved. Imagine now with Corinth in view Paul thinking, "I am only going to preach the Cross."

3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

When we are suffering, or even when our thinking is tormenting us, focusing on the Cross will bring us back to not growing weary in well doing. Notice in verse 3 Paul said he was in weakness, fear and trembling. But then he reminded us in verse 5 about the power of God!

1 Corinthians 2:16 says that we have the mind of Christ. This is the very final thing Paul said in 1 Corinthians about the Cross.

“16 For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.” It makes sense then, that when we focus on the Cross, His mind will take over our “stinking thinking.” It works for me!

6 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

*Amplified- 7 But rather what we are setting forth is a wisdom of God once hidden [from the human understanding] and now revealed to us by God— [that wisdom] which God devised and decreed before the ages for **our glorification [to lift us into the glory of His presence].***

Here is where Scripture tells us that the wisdom of the Cross would lift us into the Glory of the presence of God, the Creator of all things!

It is the Cross and by the resurrection that lifts us into the glory of His presence.

When you see Him alive, you know He died on the Cross, and His presence changes you. He does all the work, if you cooperate. That is why Paul said that’s all we need. This returns us to normal.

8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

Verse 8 indicates that the Satanic powers would have never caused the people to crucify Jesus had they known the miracle that would result of bringing people “back to normal, or into the Glory of His presence!

Now it is the same with us! They would have never attempted to overpower you had they known that you would have not given up in the overcoming process. However their “crucifixion” of you brings about powerful resurrection in our circumstances if you stand and believe! It will “destroy” the satanic influences in your realm of influence just like Jesus did.

The mystery and wisdom of The Cross.

How does God bless us, and how can we position ourselves to receive His blessings? I believe it is by our continual spiritual understanding of the Cross and the Resurrection.

Every human was born with the generational inheritance of being separated from God, just as Adam was after he decided to no longer depend on God (sin).

God's love is so vast and intense that He gave Himself, in the person of Jesus to take our penalty for this curse.

The mystery of the Cross is that when you gain revelation on what really happened at the Cross and resurrection, you change. The love of God penetrates your soul and you fall in love with Jesus. You allow God to inhabit your being through the Holy Spirit.

Then it works like a snowball, becoming larger and larger as time goes on. The more you love Him, the more you want to please and obey Him, and the more you relate to Him the more you change and become more like Him. His inhabitation of you becomes more real as time goes on, and you continue to become more intimate with Him!

Then watch out! Your life will get into real purpose!

What is the greatest blessing we can receive from God?

Is it the gifts or the Giver? Too many people, even believers feel that more of God's gifts would be the ultimate. Gifts are wonderful, but they can and do become idols to too many believers. As in children, many idolize even the genetic gifts and talents, and even the tangible gifts, above loving their parents.

However there is a balance. Psalm 103:2 reminds us to remember the good things He does for us.

Psalms 103:2 NLT

2 Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me.

The greatest gift God gave us is The Cross, which gave us the New Birth, which brought us the indwelling Holy Spirit, which brings us intimacy with Him. It also assures us that we have Heaven as our eternal destiny.

The Word of God is clear about always giving God thanks. We should always remember His gifts and always give Him thanksgiving! Thanksgiving is powerful!

God's presence.

Different people experience God's presence in different ways and during different circumstances. It is not always a great huge mountain of emotions, but sometimes it is. Sometimes you hear His voice. Sometimes you sense His voice as you read the Word. Other times you just obtain peace.

When we get into God's presence, then we are in a place where the Holy Spirit wants to and is able to change our inner man. In turn that will give us the character of Jesus on the inside. Our behavior is only the product of what is in our spirit and soul.

When we enter into God's presence, peace comes in the storm, faith replaces fear and we know we are loved, and we are corrected in a loving way. Then our lives will glorify Him and contribute to His Kingdom coming to earth.

Our primary contribution to receiving the benefits of the Cross at this point is to pour out our hearts to God as we speak to Him. When we sow our truth, we will reap His Truth, and the Truth will set us free.

An incident about one of my grandson twin boys Gabriel [when he was about 4 years old] gave me a perfect example of this. One day I took him to school and I left his brother

Micah at home because he was not feeling well. Gabriel not only did not like this, he voiced his objection with great zeal and a high-pitched plea. His behavior at that point was not really very good, even though he normally is a good boy. I buckled him up in the car and turned on a video with a contemporary group singing an old beautiful hymn, “How Great Thou Art.” Within a few seconds Gabriel’s entire attitude did a complete turn around. I saw in the rear view mirror that he was captured by the presence of God. His eyes were fixed and he was singing along with the group. His behavior changed! The presence of God did it and he submitted.

Why did the Apostle Paul make such radical statements about continually focusing on The Cross?

The purpose of Cross is to return us to normal. God created us in His own image. He took mere dirt, formed it, and breathed Himself into it. Thus the miracle of creating a human filled with God Himself. That is normal.

One would expect Paul to begin to show the Corinthians how to control or eliminate their ungodly behavior. He did, however the unexpected cure that he gave to them is the core of this message. He told them that they should focus on The Cross and that would bring them into God’s presence, the greatest blessing of all. That is designed to bring character change.

Normal is also to have intimacy with God. What kind of intimacy?

Complete intimacy cannot be accomplished to its fullness unless both parties are joined as one. One must live inside the other and vice-versa. There are only two godly types of this; our oneness with God and our blood covenant oneness with our spouse. Ephesians 5:31-33 explains this. Two beings who have not had their spirits and souls interchanged cannot have the ultimate intimacy. That is the type of intimacy the Cross gives us with God.

An intimate conversational relationship with God is available. *Jesus is the Wisdom of God, and Wisdom speaks – see Proverb 8.*

Finally, the Blood of the Cross reconciles all things. Briefly, this means that all things that you encounter in life, especially the bad things, are reconciled (turned to your advantage) because of Jesus going to the Cross and His resurrection. More about this later.

Colossians 1:19-22,

“19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--”

Remember, the main ingredient we need to offer is truth and honesty with Jesus.

A quote from A.B. Simpson

3 John 3 says,

"For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth."

"You cannot walk in the truth unless you live and express the truth. The truth was in Gaius, and Gaius walked in the truth. If the first had not been the case, the second could never have occurred; and if the second could not be said of him the first would have been a mere pretense. Truth must enter into the soul, penetrate and saturate it, or else it is of no value."