

The Work of the Cross

I Corinthians 15:1-4, I Corinthians 1:18-25, 30-31

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Jesus became the greatest liar, perjurer, thief, adulterer and murderer than mankind has ever known – not because He committed these sins but because He was actually made sin for us. ~Martin Luther

If Christ, by dying, has made full satisfaction, the God can consistently pardon the greatest of sinners that believe in Jesus. ~John Flavel

The death of Christ was the most dreadful blow ever given to the empire of darkness. ~William S. Plumer

*¹Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. I Corinthians 15:1-4 (NASB)*

- The message of the cross is of first importance. I Corinthians 15:3
 - His death, burial, resurrection and ascension are indispensable to our faith.

¹⁸For the story and message of the cross is sheer absurdity and folly to those who are perishing and on their way to perdition, but to us who are being saved it is the [manifestation of] the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, I will baffle and render useless and destroy the learning of the learned and the philosophy of the philosophers and the cleverness of the clever and the discernment of the discerning; I will frustrate and nullify [them] and bring [them] to nothing. ²⁰Where is the wise man (the philosopher)? Where is the scribe (the scholar)? Where is the investigator (the logician, the debater) of this present time and age? Has not God shown up the nonsense and the folly of this world's wisdom? ²¹For when the world with all its earthly wisdom failed to perceive and recognize and know God by means of its own philosophy, God in His wisdom was pleased through the foolishness of preaching [salvation, procured by Christ and to be had through Him], to save those who believed (who clung to and trusted in and relied on Him). ²²For while Jews [demandingly] ask for signs and miracles and Greeks pursue philosophy and wisdom, ²³We preach Christ (the Messiah) crucified, [preaching which] to the Jews is a scandal and an offensive stumbling block [that springs a snare or trap], and to the Gentiles it is absurd and utterly unphilosophical nonsense. ²⁴But to those who are called, whether Jew or Greek (Gentile), Christ [is] the Power of God and the Wisdom of God. ²⁵[This is] because the foolish thing [that has its source in] God is wiser than men, and the weak thing [that springs] from God is stronger than men. I Corinthians 1:18-25 (Amplified Bible)

- The Word of the cross is the Power of God made manifest to us. (II Corinthians 1:18)
 - It seems foolish to others.
 - It is wisdom and power to us. (Romans 1:16)
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³⁰But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹so that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." I Corinthians 1:30-31 (NASB)

³⁰But you – and it is all God’s doing – are in Christ, Jesus: He has become for us a wisdom which is from God, consisting of righteousness and sanctification and deliverance; ³¹in order that it may be as Scripture says, “He who boasts – let His boast be in the Lord.” I Corinthians 1:30-31 (Weymouth NT)

By His doing we are in Him and He is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. “He has made Him who knew nothing of sin to be sin for us, in order that in Him we may become the righteousness of God. II Corinthians 5:21 (Weymouth NT)

Why, then, are you afraid to take up your cross, which leads to the kingdom? In the Cross is salvation; in the Cross is life; in the Cross is protection from enemies. In the Cross is infusion of heavenly sweetness; in the Cross is strength of mind; in the Cross is joy of Spirit. In the Cross is height of virtue; in the Cross is perfection of sanctity, There is no...hope of eternal life, but in the Cross. ~Thomas a Kempis

- The Cross means justification and redemption to us. Romans 3:20-26
 - ... “being declared righteous as a gift of His grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:24 (Transline NT)
 - Jesus paid our ransom on the cross (See Ephesians 1:7)
 - Propitiation means “the satisfying sacrifice”, propitiation is the removal or satisfaction of wrath. We are acquitted of our sin-guiltiness and declared righteous (justified) by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross.
 - See Romans 5:6-10
 - See Hebrews 10:10-14
 - See Colossians 1:9-23
 - The Cross is our emancipation proclamation. Romans 6:6-11
 - Note the tense of these statements:
 - Our old self was crucified with Him. Romans 6:6
 - He who has died is freed from sin. Romans 6:7
 - Consider yourselves to be dead to sin (now!) but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

You rest in the forgiveness of sin when the thought of God does not remind you of the sin but that it is forgiven, when the past is not a memory of how much you trespassed but of how much you have been forgiven. ~Soren Kierkegaard