



"The Cross Was Enough!"

The world we live in is getting worse and worse. Crime, immorality, violence, corruption, and more seem to have

permeated the very fabric of society. Man's best efforts to turn this around have failed. There is only one hope, and it is a supremely great hope — **"Jesus Christ and Him Crucified"**.

"My Confession Concerning The Power Of The Cross – I Am Complete Christ"

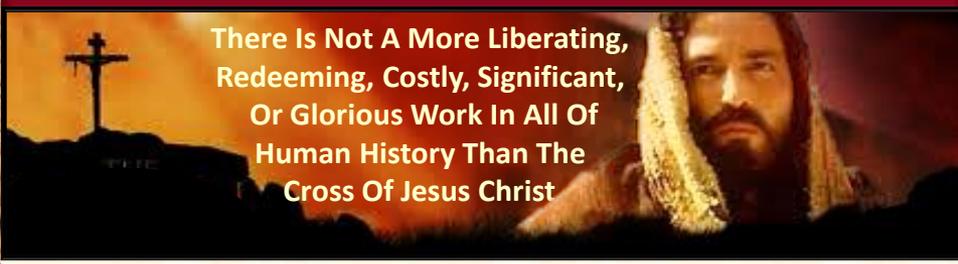
Jesus removed my rebellion, evil heart desires, overt sins, enslavement to sin, shame, curse, sickness, poverty, sorrow, anxiety, fear of rejection, and death. I am complete in Christ (Col. 1:28) – Jesus has given me restored fellowship, new heart desires, His righteousness, power over sin, His glory, the Holy Spirit, health, prosperity, hope, joy, peace, adoption into His family and eternal life.

"Now Go, And Tell Others What God Has Done for You!"



THIS IS MY TESTIMONY

1. Jesus has taken my rebellion and independence and I have restored daily fellowship with God.
2. Jesus removed my darkened heart and I have received a new heart, alight with God's desires.
3. Jesus removed my sinfulness and now I daily put on Christ's robe of righteousness.
4. Jesus removed the power of sin and now I have a power and passion to live in holiness.
5. Jesus has taken my shame and now I radiate His glory everywhere I go.
6. Jesus removed the curse I deserved. I daily walk by the Spirit, experiencing God's blessings.
7. Jesus has taken my sickness and I now live in divine health.
8. Jesus has taken my poverty and I now live in abundance.
9. Jesus has taken my sorrow and regret of what could have been; now hope fills my heart daily.
10. Jesus has taken my anxiety. Now joy and peace guard my heart.
11. Jesus has removed my fear of rejection and adopted me into His family, passionately loving me.
12. Jesus experienced my death and I now have eternal life.



There Is Not A More Liberating, Redeeming, Costly, Significant, Or Glorious Work In All Of Human History Than The Cross Of Jesus Christ

The sum total of that richness, and all God accomplished and made available to us in that act of grace, is known as the "Power Of The Cross." That ongoing power is life-transforming and is working every second of every day. Unfortunately, many Christians live in frustration and even defeat. To them the Cross means their sins are forgiven and that's all. But what too few realize is that while making a way to forgive our sins, Jesus also dealt a death blow to our sinful natures by giving us the power to live a life of victory each day by His Spirit.

"We Need To Start Taking The Cross Of Christ More Seriously"

How many people today do not take the Cross of Christ seriously? Some people think that Cross was some boring historical account that has no meaning in life. Well, my friends, the Cross has meaning; it has significance and we need to start taking the Cross of Christ more seriously. We need to embrace the value of the Cross. **"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again"** (2 Cor. 5:14, 15). The cross has a compelling power. It compels us to live not for ourselves but for the Lord. We are not on this earth to do as we please. We are here to live for Jesus and to do whatever He wants us to do. His love should compel us to return that love back to Him.

"First, The Cross-Should Compel Gratitude"

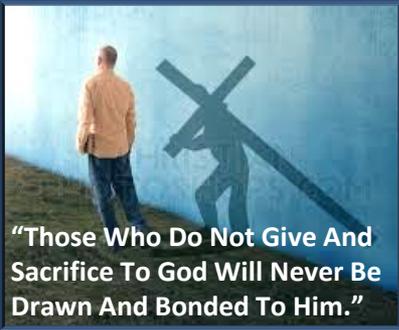
When Jesus died on the Cross outside the city of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, something extraordinary happened. When Jesus died, He **"Put Away Sin By The Sacrifice Of Himself"** (Hebrew 9:26). In other words, His death, and the blood that He shed, makes it possible for us to be forgiven of our sins. Also, through His death, Jesus opened up the door which at one time separated man from God (Colossians 1:20-22) "And through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His Cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, He has now reconciled in His fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before Him—"



Jesus, through His death, made it possible for us to spend eternity in heaven (Hebrews 9:12) **"He entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His Own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption."** These thoughts should stir our souls. They should cause us to appreciate what our Savior did

for us and to respond with a deep sense of gratitude and thankfulness. How often do you thank the Lord for the blessings He bestows upon you?

"Second, The Cross-Should Compel Self-Denial"



"Those Who Do Not Give And Sacrifice To God Will Never Be Drawn And Bonded To Him."

This passage reveals a conversation that Jesus had with His disciples about the Cross. (Matthew 16:21-27) **"From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took Him aside and began to**

rebuke him. "Never, Lord." he said. "This shall never happen to you." Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan. You are a stumbling block to Me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Then Jesus said to His disciples, **"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he has done."** If we are going to be true followers and disciples of Jesus, we must deny ourselves. What does this mean? Jesus gives us a definition of what it means to deny self. To deny self is to mind the things of God and put God's will first in our lives. We must put our own personal desires and wants secondary to what the Lord would want. What God wants must come first. When we look at the Cross, we see the supreme example of self-denial. According to (Luke 22:42) **"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but Yours be done."** it appears that Jesus did not want to die on the Cross.

Jesus was hoping that His Father had another plan for redemption, instead of the Cross. But even though Jesus asked God to remove the cup of suffering from Him, the bottom line however, was that Jesus had the mind-set to be obedient to the Father's will and not to seek His Own will. **Jesus put God and His will first before His Own will.** Brethren, it is time for us to start putting **God's will ahead of our own will. We need to get our priorities back in order.**

"Third, The Cross-Should Compel Poverty Of Spirit"

If you would like to go to heaven, the first step to becoming a Christian is found in (Matthew. 5:3) **"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."** To be **"poor in spirit"** is to acknowledge our spiritual poverty--our spiritual bankruptcy, before God. We must admit to ourselves and to God that we are unworthy sinners who need God's forgiveness.



We are to have the same type of attitude that was demonstrated by the tax collector in (Lk. 18:9-14) **"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."** Just like the tax collector realized how sinful he was we also need to realize this in our own lives. (Romans 3:12) The Bible says, **"There is no one who does good, not even one."**(Romans 3:23) **"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."** (Luke 5:8) Peter said to Jesus, **"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man."** What God desires in everyone above all else is a **"Broken, Contrite Heart"** that reaches out to God for mercy. **"The LORD is close to the**



brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18).