

THE INSTRUCTOR



“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16

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BLESSINGS BY THE BLOOD

Blessings of great value have been provided by the blood of Jesus Christ. They have been provided by the love, grace and goodness of God.

Let us now consider some blessings of immense worth provided by the blood of Christ.

I. THOSE AFAR OFF (THE GENTILES) WERE MADE NIGH BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST! In addressing the saints (who were “in time past Gentiles in the flesh,” “without Christ,” aliens, strangers, without hope and “without God in the world”) at Ephesus, Paul said: **“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”** (Eph. 2:13).

II. PEACE WAS PROVIDED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST! Referring to Christ the apostle Paul said: **“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, . . .”** Peace was provided for both Jew and Gentile in Christ **“in one body.”** (See Eph. 2:14-22).

III. REDEMPTION WAS PROVIDED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST! The following Scriptures show that **redemption** has been provided by the blood of Christ.

Heb. 9:12 — **“ . . . But by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”** (Also see v. 15).

Eph. 1:7 — **“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, . . .”** (cf. Col. 1:14).

1 Pet. 1:18-19 — **“ . . . Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, . . . But with the precious blood of Christ, . . .”**

IV. JUSTIFICATION WAS PROVIDED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST! In Rom. 5:9 Paul declared: **“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, . . .”** Without the blood of Jesus Christ there is no justification.

V. REMISSION OF SINS WAS PROVIDED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST! In Matthew 26:28 Jesus said: **“For this is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”** The Hebrew writer clearly points out that Christ gave himself in the shedding of his blood as a sacrifice for sins forever. (See Hebrews 9:24-28 and Hebrews 10:12).

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Editorial . . .

THE POWER OF THE CROSS

A study of the cross of Christ and its power can be both interesting and profitable.

MEANING OF CROSS

The cross of Christ had (and has) different meanings to different people. Consider the following.

TO THE ROMANS the cross was an instrument of punishment. It was a means of carrying out an execution of one (Jesus Christ) condemned to die.

TO THE JEWS the cross was a means of getting rid of Jesus of Nazareth!

TO SIMON OF CYRENE the cross was a burden to bear. Matthew 27:32 says: "**And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.**"

TO THOSE WHO PERISH the cross of Christ is "foolishness!" Paul declared: "**For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; . . .**" (1 Cor. 1:18)

TO THOSE WHO ARE SAVED the cross of Christ "**is the power of God!**" Paul declared: "**For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**" (1 Cor. 1:18).

As we discuss the cross of Christ

we do not mean the mere physical cross upon which Christ was crucified but we have reference to the **death** of Christ and all that includes.

We can see the **power of the cross of Christ** as we consider what **was** and **is** accomplished by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

ABOLISHED THE LAW

I. THE CROSS OF CHRIST ABOLISHED THE LAW! Paul said: "**Blotting out the handwriting and ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross. . .**" (Col. 2:14-17). We learn from Eph. 2:14-16 that Christ "**. . . abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; . . .**"

The law that God gave through Moses is no longer in effect. The following passages bear this out.

Gal. 3:24-25 — "**Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.**"

Hebrews 10:9 — "**. . . He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.**"

Romans 7:4 — "**. . . Ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ.**"

Gal. 5:4 — "**Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.**"

The power of the cross abolished the law! Thanks be unto God!

DRAWS TO CHRIST

II. THE CROSS OF CHRIST DRAWS MEN TO CHRIST! Jesus declared: "**And I, if I be lifted up**

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from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die." (John 12:32-33). We learn from John 6:44-45 that no one can go unto Christ unless the Father draws him. This drawing is accomplished through the teaching of the gospel. To come to Christ one must be taught, must hear and learn. The death of Jesus on the cross is one of the primary facts of the gospel. (cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-4).

To the Gentile Christians in Ephesus the apostle Paul wrote: "**But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.**" (Eph. 2:13). Through the blood of Christ that was shed on the cross sinners are drawn to Christ. Thanks be unto God!

BROUGHT (AND BRINGS) PEACE

III. THE CROSS OF CHRIST BROUGHT PEACE! Paul said: "**And having made peace through the blood of his cross, . . . In the body of his flesh through death. . .**" (Col. 1:20-22).

Eph. 2:14-17 says: "**For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; . . . And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.**"

The fact that Jesus died on the cross made peace possible between the Jew and Gentile as well as peace between man and God. Thanks be unto God!

RECONCILES TO GOD

IV. THE CROSS OF CHRIST RECONCILES ENEMIES (LOST MEN AND WOMEN) UNTO GOD! Paul said: "**And, having made**

peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; . . . And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, . . ." (Col. 1:20-22).

Eph. 2:16 says: "**And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.**" In Rom. 5:10 the apostle Paul declared: "**For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.**" (Also read 2 Cor. 5:18-21).

Without the cross of Jesus Christ, reconciliation to God would not be available. Thanks be to God for the power of the cross!

REDEEMS

V. THE CROSS OF CHRIST REDEEMS LOST SINNERS! Speaking of Jesus Christ the apostle Paul said: "**Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, . . .**" (Titus 2:14). Peter declared: "**Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, . . .**" (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Eph. 1:7 says: "**In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.**" We learn from Rom. 3:24 that we are "**justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**" (Also see Heb. 9:15).

Sinners could not have redemption in Christ if He had not died on the cross. Thanks be to God for the cross of Christ!

CRUCIFIES WORLD TO US

VI. THE CROSS OF CHRIST CRUCIFIES THE WORLD TO
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CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANS TO THE WORLD! In the Galatian letter Paul said: **“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”** (6:14). (Also study Gal. 2:20 and Rom. 6:1-6).

Because He died on the cross for us we die to sin in repentance. Our old man (of sin) is crucified with Christ, that the body of sin might be destroyed. We die to sin that we may live unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. We are not to love the world (cf. 1 John 2:15), nor be conformed to world (cf. Rom. 12:1-2). Neither are we to be friends of the world! (cf. James 4:4). We should be willing to **“suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.”**

Let each of us be thankful for the cross of Christ and appreciate more fully the **power of the cross.** **“Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”** (Heb. 12:1-2).

(CRS)

BESSINGS BY THE BLOOD

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CLEANSING FROM SINS (which is another way to describe remission of sins) is provided by the blood of Christ according to 1 John 1:7.

WASHING FROM SINS (which is another way of expressing remission of sins) is provided by the blood of Christ according to Rev. 1:5 & Rev. 7:14.

VI. THE PURGING OF OUR CONSCIENCE FROM DEAD WORKS TO SERVE THE LIVING GOD IS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST according to Heb. 9:14!

VII. SANTIFICATION IS BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST! Hebrews 13:12 states: **“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.”**

To receive the blessings provided for us in Christ we must have enough faith in Him to move in obedience to His will.

(CRS)

A SERIES OF GOSPEL MEETINGS WITH DONNIE RADER PREACHING WILL BE CONDUCTED AT EAST ALBERTVILLE OCT. 25-30, 1992 at 7:30 P.M. except on the Lord's Day.

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Many receive advice but only the wise profit by it.

* * * *

“Evil has no power if the good are unafraid.” — Ronald Reagan

* * * *

“In every pang that rends the heart, Then man of sorrows had a part.” — Michael Bruce

* * * *

There is no pillar so soft as a clear conscience.

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