

TRIUMPHS OF THE CROSS

Marvin L. Weir

The cross of Calvary is precious in what it accomplished.

The cross, a curse for all mere humans, was a triumphant moment in the life of Jesus Christ. Having died on Calvary's cross, it can now be said that Christ "...spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Col. 2:15). The devil did not win a victory when Christ was crucified. Neither was a victory won by him when the Lord arose from the dead. Men did all within their power to keep Jesus in the tomb, but to no avail (1 Cor. 15:4; Luke 24:1-6). The Lord's greatest triumph over Satan now comes by way of the cross.

The cross of Calvary is precious in what it accomplished. It should hold a special place in the heart of one who is concerned about his soul. Let us never forget that...

1) The Cross Of Christ Was A Triumph Over Sin. Satan never advertises sin for what it really is. "The sting of death is sin; ... But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:56-57). The brethren at Rome were reminded that "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). Since all of accountable age have sinned (Rom. 3:23), all were (are) hopelessly lost, had not Christ triumphed over sin on the cross.

Of Christ it is said, "...now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself" (Heb. 9:26). What the blood of bulls and goats could not do (Heb. 10:4), Christ, "...by his own blood...entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb. 9:12).

Those who have "put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27) by obeying the Gospel have access to the blood of Christ and the forgiveness of their trespasses "according to the riches of his grace" (Eph. 1:7). Repentance always precedes forgiveness (Luke 13:3) and the sins one has repented of will be remembered against him no more (Heb. 8:12). This is quite a contrast to the old law where there was "a remembrance...made of sins every year" (Heb. 10:3).

2) The Cross Of Christ Was A Triumph Over The Old Law. The Bible teaches that "...if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second" (Heb. 8:7). Though many today advocate that "Christians" are subject to part of the Law of Moses, such could not be farther from the truth! Paul reminds the brethren at Colossae that Christ forgave their trespasses, saying, He blotted "...out the handwriting of 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). Ever consistent in his teaching, Paul tells the brethren at Ephesus that Christ, "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" (Eph. 2:15).

The inspired writer to the Hebrews says, "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth" (Heb. 9:15-17). Yes, at His death on the cross, Christ triumphed over the Old Law of Moses.

3) The Cross Of Christ Was A Triumph Over Death. Christ's death put an end to the fear of death for all who "die in the Lord" (Rev. 14:13). Paul, writing to Timothy, says that Christ "abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim. 1:10). Isaiah prophesied this truth some 750 years before the cross. Isaiah proclaimed, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it" (Isa. 25:8). Homer Hailey comments: "Having made provision for the great spiritual feast and having removed the covering or veil of ignorance and unbelief, the Lord makes a third provision: He hath swallowed up death forever. This was achieved through Jesus Christ. In Christ's victory over death our victory is guaranteed, for death will be swallowed up in victory (1 Cor. 15:54). He will wipe away tears from the faces of His people and provide them comfort in the midst of affliction (Heb. 13:5-6). And, in their victory over all forces by the strength which He gives, their reproach is taken away. Isaiah's seal of certainty is now stamped upon the promise: for Jehovah hath spoken it. There can be no higher guarantee."

Salvation (eternal life) is located IN Christ Jesus (2 Tim. 2:10). This is why Jesus could say to Martha, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this" (John 11:25-26)?

4) The Cross Of Christ Was A Triumph Over Satan. It is true that Satan bruised Christ's heel (the effort to destroy Him on the Roman cross), but the good news for Christians is that Christ bruised Satan's head (cf. Gen. 3:15). The Lord's atonement and triumphant resurrection were for the purpose of destroying "the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

It is sin that separates man from God (Isa. 59:2). Christ was willing, however, to empty Himself of some of the glory that was His (Phil. 2:6-7) and become flesh and dwell among us (John 1:14) to defeat Satan and the stranglehold of sin. The Savior was willing to partake of flesh and blood "...that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14).

May it never be said of us that we are "enemies of the cross of Christ" (Phil. 3:18)! Rather, let our attitude be that of Paul, "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" (Gal. 6:14). May we ever be grateful for and treasure the triumphs of the cross! (Seek The Old Paths)

QUESTION: Isn't it true that even after adults are baptized they still are not free from sin; that they are unaware of their sins, just like infants?

ANSWER: Roman 6:12-15 shows that man is aware of his sin! Romans 6:16-18 teaches that when one obeys from his heart that form of doctrine (baptism), he is then made free from sin! See also John 8:32 and Romans 6:8. At baptism one is freed from his past sins. When sin occurs after baptism, the Christian in fellowship with Christ will continue to be cleansed by the blood of Christ as he confesses his sins (I John 1:6-9). Certainly confession of sins demands an awareness of sins! Compiled by David Amos for Truth for the World

Braggs church of Christ Bulletin

January 17, 2021

Sick & Shut-in

Bennett, Norma
Brashear, Logan
Bunch, Margaret
Cash, Joe
Cunningham, Jerry
Evans, Carla
Evans, Steve
Hall, Donna
Horn, Bobby
Isbell, Thomas
Moore, Jean
Moore, Roger
Mouse, Tyler
Nunez, Bob
Prichard, Barbara
Prichard, Bobby
Sturgeon, Wayne
Sullins, Ray

The following are suffering from Covid:

Dawn West
Megan Stillers
Nikki and Abby Vahdatipour
Tracy Igert (she also has Type-A flu)
Sandra Gilliam
Kelly Gilliam
Rachel Nunez
Bob Nunez
Grayson Ortiz
Morgan Gilliam

Evangelism

Cliff Lyons, Ilya Muzychenko and Markov Roman, Russia
Ricky Gootam, India
House to House/Heart to Heart
Website - Braggschurchofchrist.com
Facebook.com@braggscc
In Search of The Lord's Way- Tulsa, OK, on
KQCW TV 19 - Sun 7:30 am

Attendance

December Average - 32
Attendance last Sunday - 30

Scripture Reading – Prov. 1:19-21

News & Notes

Gospel Meeting with Allen Webster - July 25-27, 2021

NOTE –the new House to House paper is on the table by the communion trays.

We extend our sympathy to Marilyn Cory and family in the passing of her mother, Wanda McCarty.