

The Character of the Cross: FORGIVENESS

Its essential to know about the real meaning of the Gospel

GALATIANS – Paul says he is “amazed at how quickly you have deserted the gospel” what would he say to us today?

We must get the Gospel **settled in our minds, articulated in our mouths, and expressed in our lives**. Christianity is centred in the Cross.

Character of the Cross: Forgiveness: Luke 23:32-34

A PRIMARY CHARACTERISTIC OF THE CROSS: FORGIVENESS

- What are we made for? (Isa 43:6-7)
 - Luke 9:25 “what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but forfeits his soul
 - Romans 3:23 “for **all** have sinned and fall short of the **glory** of God”
 - **Mark 15:27** “And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. [And the scripture was fulfilled which says, “And he was numbered with transgressors]”
 - **1Peter 3:18** “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, **that he might bring us to God**, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,”
 - **Colossians 1:19** “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, **making peace** by the **blood of his cross**.”
- **2 Cor 5:19** “that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them”
 - **EPH 1:7** “In him we have redemption **through his blood**, the **forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of his grace.”
1. **FORGIVENESS PRODUCES PEACE**
 - John 15:14 You are my friends **if** you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; **but I have called you friends**, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.
 - James 2:22 “You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” —and he was **called a friend of God**.”
 2. **FORGIVENESS CLEARS THE BOARD**
 - Romans 8.1 “there is therefore now, **NO** condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”
 - 2 Cor 5:21 “He who knew no sin became sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”
 - Hebrews 10:14 “for by one offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified”
 - 1John 1:9 “If we confess ours sins He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from **all** unrighteousness.”

- Forgiveness clears the board – and **CLEANS A DIRTY CONSCIENCE**
- Hebrews 10:19 “Since therefore brothers we have **confidence** to enter the holy place **by the blood of Jesus** by a new and living way which he inaugurated for us through the veil that is his **flesh** and since we have a great priest over the house of God **let us draw near** with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith having our hearts **sprinkled clean from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water”

“Father forgive them, for then know not what they do.”

3. FORGIVENESS MAKES ACCEPTABLE

- 2 Cor 5:21 “we become the righteousness of God **in Him**”
- Ephe 1:11 “we have obtained an inheritance **in him**”
- Col 1:14 “we have redemption the forgiveness of our sins **in him**”

4. FORGIVENESS REPRODUCES

- Matt 18 – Parable of the unforgiving servant
- Eph 4:32 “Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”
- Col 3:12 “and so as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, baring with one another, and forgiving each other. Who ever has a complaint against anyone just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you”
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- Matthew 6:14 “For if you forgive men their transgressions our heavenly Father will also forgive you, BUT if you do not forgive men, then your heavenly Father will not forgive your transgressions”