

The Preaching and the Power of the Cross of Christ! 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

I. The CROSS IS OFTEN ABUSED, MISUSED, and even DENIED

1. A variety of abuses
2. In DENIAL of the CENTRAL place of the cross, many are focusing on visible "good deeds"

Luke 24: 45-47 - THE PRIMARY CALLING OF THE GOSPEL IS THAT OF CALLING SINNERS TO REPENTANCE... AND TO FAITH IN THE CRUCIFIED, RISEN LORD!

"Good works" can neither _____ nor _____ the cross.

(Luke 24:47) 1 Cor. 15: 1-10

II. THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST

1. 1 Cor. 1:17-24; 2:2;
2. Gal. 2:20; 3:11-14; 6:14;

III. THE CROSS is to be TAKEN UP!

1. Mark 8:34
2. Matthew 16:24
3. Luke 9:23
4. Mark 10:21
5. Luke 14:27

IV. The Cross and Self

Matthew 16:24-25 / Galatians 2:20; Galatians 5:24; Galatians 6:14

What does it mean for a CHRISTIAN to "deny himself"?

1. It signifies the complete _____ of our own goodness.
2. It means ceasing to rest upon any works of our own to _____ US to God.
3. It means an unreserved acceptance of God's verdict that "all our righteousness (our best performances) are as _____" (Isa. 64:6).
4. To "deny himself" is to completely renounce _____ will.

- a. The language of the _____ is, "We will not have this Man to reign over us" (Luke 19:14).
- b. The attitude of the Christian is, "For to me to live is _____!" (Phil. 1:21)
- c. Phil. 2:5, "Let this mind be _____, which was also in Christ Jesus,"
- d. "ye are _____ your own, for ye are _____ with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).
- e. "Nevertheless not what _____, but what Thou wilt" (Mark 14:36).
- f. A man's self is a bundle of _____ "... and those idols must be acknowledged, renounced.. and we must FLEE FROM THEM! (1 Cor. 10:14)
- g. Non-Christians are " _____ of their own selves" (2 Tim. 3:1); But the one who has been regenerated by the Spirit says with Job, "I am vile" (40:4), "I abhor myself" (42:6).
- h. Of non-Christians it is written, "all _____, not the things which are Jesus Christ's" (Phil. 2:21);

But of God's saints it is recorded, "they _____ their own lives unto the death" (Rev. 12:11).

Titus 2:12-14

What does it mean for a Christian to "And take up his cross."

Galatians 2:20 / Galatians 6:14 (Phil. 3:10).

- a. The "cross" is the _____, the evidence, of Christian discipleship.
- b. Taking up my "cross" means a _____ voluntarily surrendered to God.
- c. For Christ it was a voluntary sacrifice, offering Himself to God; an act of _____ to God. (John 10:18)
- d. Philippians 2:5: "Let this _____, which was also in Christ Jesus."
- e. The obedience of Christ must be the obedience of the Christian— voluntary, _____, unreserved, continuous. (Isa. 50:7).
- f. The "cross" stands for _____ and dedication to God: (Rom. 12:1) (Acts 20:24).

In light of the cross ... WHAT AM I?

Nothing more am I than

A sinner saved by grace

Nothing more am I than

A worm raised to the place of son and heir

Nothing more am I than

A beggar washed clean by another's life's blood

Nothing more am I than

A servant privileged to sit at the Master's table

Nothing more am I than

An enemy forgiven, because justice fell on another

Nothing more am I than

A criminal whose sentence has been served by the Judge

Nothing more am I than

A peasant who has favor with the King, only by His mercy

Nothing more am I than

One rejected, now accepted because of another's righteousness

Nothing more am I than

A defiant child whose heart is softened by the Father's patience

Nothing more am I than

A wicked rebel, spared judgment because another paid the price

Nothing more am I than

A slave whose freedom has been purchased for the price of a prince

Nothing more, nothing more, nothing more am I

All that I have become, He has made me

So here I stand, saved and righteous before Him

and here I am, acceptable in His sight

I am a son with His name, I am **an heir** of Heaven

I am a saint, by His decree, and He cleanses me still

I am forgiven and welcomed into fellowship with Him

I am a poem being crafted by the great Artist Himself

I am a temple for the Holy One who lives on high

I am His hands, I am His feet, I am His vessel for love

I am new through and through, and freed from sin's grasp

I am the apple of his eye and I've found His smile

Nothing more, nothing more, nothing more am I

All that I now am, He has made me!

[The above 'poem' and some of the concepts in the outline were drawn from and developed from material saved on my computer in earlier years; authors unknown]

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

"... **God forbid** that I should boast about anything or anybody except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which means that **the world is a dead thing to me and I am a dead man to the world.**"

Galatians 6:14 (J. B. Phillips paraphrase)