

THE  
CROSS  
CENTERED  
RELIGION

I CORINTHIANS 1:17-25

In our lesson text, Paul is talking about the importance of the cross.

He says that the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing.

But to those who are being saved it is the power of God.

Our Christianity centers around the cross.

## The Church Centers Around The Cross.

The blood shed on the cross purchased the church.

Acts 20:28

Take heed to yourselves and all the flock, which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

So, if one can be saved out of the church, he can be saved without being blood-bought.

The Head of the church is He who died on the cross.

Ephesians 1:22-23

And He put all things under His feet, and has made Him the head over all things for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 5:23

For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

That which is preached by the church is the gospel  
which grew out of the cross.

I Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those  
who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is  
the power of God.

I Timothy 3:15

If I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you  
ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which  
is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground  
of the truth.

The church centers around the cross.

## Redemption Centers Around the Cross.

Ephesians 1:7, 2:16

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

And that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

I John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

How are we saved by the blood of Christ?

Matthew 26:27-28

Drink from it, all of you. For this my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Christ's blood was shed in His death.

We are baptized into His death.

## Roman 6:3-4

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

It is there that we come in contact with the blood, and our sins are forgiven.

## Acts 22:16

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

It is then we become part of the blood-bought church.

Acts 2:41, 47

So those who gladly received his word were baptized;  
and that day about 3,000 souls were added to them.

Praising God and having favor with all the people,  
and the Lord added to church daily those who were  
being saved.

Redemption centers around the cross.

# Separation of God's Covenants Centers Around The Cross.

Matthew 5:17

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

The law of Moses died when Jesus died on the cross.

## Colossians 2:14

Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

The Law was intended to be only temporary.

## Galatians 3:19

What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

The New Testament dispensation could not go in to effect until sometime after Jesus died.

Hebrews 9:16-17

For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.

This is a better covenant.

## Hebrews 8:6-13

But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also the Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second.

Because finding fault with them, He says, “Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with house of Judah, not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds, I will remember no more.” In that He says, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish.

## Matthew 17:1-5

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up to a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”

Today we must hear Jesus.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God who at various times and various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the whole world.

John 14:6

I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me.

Separation of God's covenants centers around the cross.

Salvation Centers Around The Cross.

Jesus died for our sins.

I Corinthians 15:3

For I delivered to you first of that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

The Jews sacrificed literal lambs.

Jesus is our lamb.

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

The preaching of the cross is God's power to save.

I Corinthians 1:18, 23-24

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

But we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

## Romans 6:17-18

But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

A person becomes free from sin when they obey “that form of doctrine” (the gospel).

The doctrine itself is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## I Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I declared to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

We must obey this “form of doctrine.”

How?

Dying to sin; being buried in baptism; and raising to walk a new life.

Romans 6:3-4

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Salvation centers around the cross.

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Given by David Hamlin 1-21-07 am

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