

The Cross Part II

In The Cross: Part I, we learned that Jesus did not bear a wooden cross. His cross was to do God's will even unto death. Part II is devoted to learning what the Bible says about the cross we should carry daily.

(1 Cor. 1:17) For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross **[crucifixion, atonement]** of Christ should be made of none effect. {18} For the preaching of the cross **[crucifixion]** is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Paul contrasted the foolishness of the 'preaching of the cross' with human 'wisdom.' Only in Christ can atonement salvation be found; only in 'foolish' preaching of the 'crucifixion' can the power of God be discovered. For Paul, the 'word of the cross,' or 'the crucified messiah' was the heart of the gospel, the same gospel that delivered us from the bondage of the law.

(Gal 5:1) Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us



free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. {2} Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

Many still live under the law; remaining servants to circumcision and so many other laws. These acts profit them nothing.

(Gal 5:10) I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be. {11} And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross **[crucified messiah]**

ceased. {12} I would they were even cut off which trouble you. {13} For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. {14} For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

The crucifixion act changed the message; basically from fulfilling over 900 laws to fulfilling one law—Love—"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

(Gal 6:10) As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. {11} Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand. {12} As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross **[atonement]** of Christ. {13} For neither they themselves who

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are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. {14} But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross [**crucifixion**] of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. {15} For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature [creation].

The cross our lord endured availed a new creation!

(Eph 2:) {13} But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. {14} For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; {15} 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; {16} And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross [**atonement**], having slain the enmity thereby: {17} And came and preached peace to you

which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. {18} For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. {19} Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Thanks to the cross—this refers to **Jesus' sacrifice**—we became fellow citizens with the saints, and are of the household of God!

(Phil 2:5) Let this mind be in you [**the new creation mindset**], which was also in Christ Jesus: {6} Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: {7} But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: {8} And being found in fashion as a man, he **humbled** himself, and became obedient unto death, *even* the death of the **cross** [**crucifixion**].

(Col 1:18) And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. {19} For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fullness dwell;

{20} And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, [**atonement**] by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

The blood of the atonement is the primary focus; the wooden cross is not!

(Col 2:14) Blotting 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 [**stake**]: {15} *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

In the Old Testament, a person's debt was listed and nailed to the city gate. A kinsman would pay the debt and then fold over this list; his relative was then debt free—his debt was blotted out. Jesus did that for us. He blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and nailed it to the stake!

(Heb 12:1) Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race

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that is set before us, {2} Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross [crucifixion], despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Luke 14:26) If any *man* come to me, and hate not [love less] his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. {27} And whosoever doth not bear [bastazo - endure, receive, carry] his cross, and come after me, cannot [ou - never] be my disciple [lerner].

(Luke 9:23) And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his **cross** daily, and follow me. {24} For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

The symbolic meaning is that Jesus himself established the figurative interpretation of the cross as a call for total surrender to God. Jesus referred to it as a symbol of

true discipleship in terms of self-denial,—denying father, mother, wife, brothers, sisters, children, belongings,—and taking up the cross and following him.

But, what is this cross that we must carry daily if we want to be worthy disciples and save our lives?

(Rom 12) {1} I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*. {2} And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God*.

Not a sacrifice of death, but a living sacrifice! The cross we are to carry daily is to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God. It refers to rational worship or adoration to our Heavenly Father. Every day, we are to start the transformation process anew by renewing our understanding of God's Word.

Surrender to God like Jesus did; obey God no matter what, please no one but God, stop being you—the physical five senses centered and carnal minded you—and manifest Christ in your daily walk.

Do you want to prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God?

Commit to God and love him with your whole heart, mind, soul, and strength. Love Jesus Christ, your lord and savior, more than your family, your belongings and yourself.

And don't forget to love your neighbor. Be obedient to God's Word, be humble and meek, and give from your heart. We are to have the mind of Christ, to be loving, patient, forgiving, and holy.

That is the cross that we, as Christian believers must carry daily!

God Bless you all!

J.E.R.S.
Jose Rosales