

The Message Of The Cross: The Continual Work Of The Cross In The Life Of The Believer

December 31, 2006

The message of the cross

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross [?the message (*logos*) of the cross,? NKJ] is (present indicative) to them that perish (present participle) foolishness (insignificant); but unto us which are [being] saved (present passive participle) it is **the power of God**.

The cross was an instrument of death

Matthew 20:18-19 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall **condemn him to death**, 19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and **to crucify** him [lit. to nail him to a cross]: and the third day he shall rise again

Christ left behind a path for us to follow

1 Peter 2:21 For to this **you** were called, because **Christ** also **suffered for us**, leaving (behind) us an **example** (a path), that **you should follow His steps** (lit. suffer for Him):

Suffering must precede glory

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal **age-lasting glory** (?called you unto His kingdom and glory,? 1Thes.2:12) by Christ Jesus, **after** that **ye have suffered a while**, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

This is foolishness to the natural man

1 Corinthians 2:14 But **the natural** [soulish] **man** receiveth not [present indicative] **the things of the Spirit of God** (the future promises of things to come Jn.16:13): for they are **foolishness** (insignificant) unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned [understood after careful examination].

An Example of a natural man

Luke 12:19-21 And I will say to **my soul**, Soul, thou hast **much goods** laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said unto him, Thou **fool**, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? 21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and **is not rich toward God**.

The things eye has not seen

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 But as it is written, **Eye hath not seen**, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, **the things which God hath prepared for them that love him**. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us **by his Spirit**: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

The heavenly city

Hebrews 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, **a heavenly**: wherefore God is not ashamed to be

called their God: for he hath **prepared** for them **a city**.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw **the holy city**, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven (to the earth), **prepared** as a bride adorned for her husband.

The Things not seen = age-lasting things

2 Corinthians 4:18 While we look not at [we don't contemplate or keep thinking about] **the things which are seen**, but at **the things which are not seen**: for the things which are seen **are temporal** (the things only pertaining to this age); but the things which are not seen (things of faith - the promises) **are eternal age-lasting things**. (the things we hope to see in the age to come)

Without faith we cannot endure the cross

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author [?the pioneer,? RSV ? one who first goes ahead to make clear the path] and finisher of our **the faith** (he did not quit); who for **the joy that was set before him** (the things not seen) **endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is set down at **the right hand of the throne** of God.

The enemies of the cross

Philippians 3:18 For **many** walk (lifestyle, choices, behaviour), of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are **the enemies of the cross of Christ**:

Those who are perishing

1 Corinthians 1:18 ?For **the message of the cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing [apollumi : destruction, loss, ruin, waste]??

Minding earthly things

Philippians 3:19 Whose **end** is **destruction** [apoleia : perishing, loss, ruin, waste ? in the age to come], whose **God is their belly** (living in the natural man), and whose glory is in their shame, **who mind earthly things** (the things which are seen).

Perishing shall last a thousand years

2 Thessalonians 1:9 They shall suffer the punishment of eternal **age-lasting** (?a thousand years,?Rev.20:4-6) **destruction** [olethros - perish, loss, ruin, waste] and exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

Israelites perished from enjoying life in Canaan

Jude 5 I will therefore put **you** in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward **destroyed** them that believed not.

1 Corinthians 10:9 Neither may **we** (Christians) tempt the Christ, as also certain of **them** (the children of Israel) did tempt, and by the serpents did **perish**; 10 neither murmur ye, as also some of them did murmur, and did **perish** by the destroyer. (YLT)

The message of the cross has saving power

1 Corinthians 1:18 For **the message of the cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to **us who are being saved** [present tense] it is the power of God.

The cross is a choice

Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear **his cross** [present active indicative], and come after me, **cannot be my disciple**.

We can avoid suffering for the cross of Christ

Galatians 6:12 As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these *would* compel you to be circumcised, only that they **may not suffer persecution for the cross** of Christ.

Take up your cross daily

Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, [aorist active imperative] and **take up** [aorist active imperative] **his cross daily**, and follow me [present active imperative].

The context is suffering

Luke 9:22 Saying, The Son of man **must suffer** many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain (by the cross), and be raised the third day.

Bearing His Reproach

Hebrews 13:12 Therefore **Jesus?** **suffered** outside the gate. 13 Therefore **let us go forth to Him**, outside the camp, **bearing His reproach**. [shame, disgrace, abuse]

The cross crucifies the natural man

Galatians 5:24 And **they that are Christ?s** (the members of His body) have crucified the flesh (the natural man) with the affections and lusts.

Through obeying the commandments

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die (in age to come): but if ye through the Spirit (through obedience to His commandments) do mortify [continually put to death or kill ?present active] the deeds of the body, ye shall live (in age to come).

The losing and saving of the soul

Luke 9:24 For [connects to verse 23] whosoever **will save his life** [or his soul ? now in this age ? no cross] **shall lose** [apollumi - to perish, to ruin, or to destroy] **it** [his life or his soul ?in the age to come] but whosoever **will lose his life** [or soul now in this age] for my sake (for obeying His commands ? denial of self, taking up his cross), the same shall **save it** (his soul or life ? in the age to come).

The gain of this age shall not offset the future loss

Luke 9:25 For [connects to verse 24] what is a man advantaged [or profited], if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

Rejecting our cross now has future consequences

Luke 9:26 For [connects to verse 25] whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, **when he shall come in his own glory**, and in his Father?s, and of the holy angels.

A future Salvation through present sufferings

1 Peter 1:9-11 Receiving **the end** of your faith, even **the salvation of your souls**. 10 Of which **salvation** the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand **the sufferings of for Christ, and the glory that should follow**.

The salvation of your soul

1 Peter 1:7 That the trial of **your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, **might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ**:

Let us glory in the cross

Galatians 6:14 But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.