

God's 'Message of the Cross'- Brings Life

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To have an understanding of the 'Message' that Jesus Christ brought to this earth, is the most important knowledge any true Christian could ever attain to in their lifetime on this earth.

We first need to realize that a 'Blood sacrifice' had to be made to redeem us from our sins, and in order to fully comprehend why Jesus came to this earth and shed His blood to pardon and cleanse us from sin. Also, realize that only the sinless Son of God could make that eternal sacrifice to cleanse us, so that is why He gave His 'lifeblood' to purchase 'Life' (eternal) for us, (even before we had repented of our sins), if we will accept His way and plan, and accept what He has done for us on the Cross.

It is only by the merciful love of God the Father that His Son's Blood was shed on the Cross for us, to pardon, cleanse, and pay for our forgiveness by His grace, (as well as to pay the price to purchase our 'salvation'). That is the vital part of the 'message of the Cross' (about Himself), that Jesus brought to us. God's merciful grace is extended to all who are found to be 'trusting' in the Son of God, if we will accept it, be willing to repent, and willing to 'give up' our efforts of the self-life (and things that we obtained via the self-life).

That great work of Christ on the Cross took away everything that God could have had against us in our entire life, because Jesus Christ reconciled us to God. That means that He appeased God and reunited us to Him. He became our worthiness; bore away all our guilt and bore the punishment that should have been on us because of the 'fall of Adam' (which caused us all to be born in sin and in need of a redemption blood sacrifice to atone for that sin).

(Isaiah 53:6 explains) that God provided that blood sacrifice) "And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

That is the first necessary Truth we all need to learn about (concerning God's Salvation Plan). We must believe it, or we cannot claim the things that blood sacrifice provided for us. The apostle urged true believers not to doubt what God sent His Son to accomplish for us on the Cross (Rom. 8:31-33) "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies." The apostle summed up his admonition with a follow-up question, saying (vs. 35), "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"

The answer is, that when our faith allows God to give us real comprehension of what Jesus Christ did for us on the Cross, (and we refuse in Jesus' Name to surrender our belief for our Atonement rights in Him,... then no one can 'separate us from the love of Christ', (and we will be delivered by God out of any trouble that we may be in). (Vs. 37 tells us) "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

That tells us that Satan cannot torment or rob us in any part of our life. Neither can he keep us from enjoying our divine inheritance, spiritually, physically, financially, in our family and home, or in any other part of our life, when we fully understand these necessary Truths about God's 'Message of Cross' which tells about the redemption sacrifice provided for people on this earth.

When we see clearly that Satan has no right to oppress us spiritually, in our bodies, homes, finances, or anywhere else, we will resist him in Jesus' Name, refuse to surrender our Atonement rights, and steadfastly refuse to have his oppressions. That is what James meant when he said, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7).

Many people have been delivered at once, when they heard and believed about Jesus bearing their diseases, sins, troubles, and all other evil things on the Cross, because they felt and said to them-selves 'if that Message of the Cross is true, then I am a well person'.

As we will accept God's 'Message of the Cross', and come to Jesus with a truly repentant

heart, we will be enabled by the Holy Spirit to follow that life of faith that Jesus set by example, a 'sinless life of faith' (even though He was tempted just as we are all tested by temptation). His 'life of faith and trust' on God, His Father, is the example by which we also (in our 'life of faith and trust') are to follow Him as He commanded. (Matt.16:24-25) "Then Jesus said to His disciples "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

That is the message Jesus and His disciples taught to everyone else, who will 'listen' to His teaching, 'believe' it, and 'follow' Him in 'obedient faith', (depending on the power of His shed blood on the Cross, which stands behind every promise given to us in the Scriptures). 'Believers' are the ones the Holy Spirit will enlighten to understand His Word and inspire them to obey and follow it by trusting on God's faithfulness to His 'promises', because the Holy Spirit is for 'believers'. not for 'unbelievers'. Many people are saying that they are 'believers', but they trust on everything but the power of God to protect and provide for them, instead of doing the will of God by trusting on Him for things in their life. Jesus told us (Matt.7:21) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

Jesus explained that the Holy Spirit would be sent to those obedient in the faith (meaning 'believers', who will grow through 'the Spirit'. "Who will guide you into all Truth" (John 16:13). Jesus told us (John 14:15-16) "If you love me, you will obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be forever with you- the 'Spirit' of truth." That Spirit was not sent for unbelievers, (Jesus explained vs.17) "That Spirit, 'the world' (meaning unbelievers) cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him. You know Him because He remains by your side and is in you."

Jesus had already given instructions to His followers (John 14:1), "Trust in God: trust in Me also." Now He re-assured all believers of His Father's promised blessing of the Holy Spirit, "Who would help them learn to 'trust in Him and his Father."

We can see from this, that if a person is no longer trusting God for things in this life, they will soon lose that vitally important 'guidance' of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in the heart of you." (Jesus explained John 14:17).

The apostle Paul told the Corinthians to "Test yourselves to discover whether you are true believers: put your own selves under examination. Or do you not know that Jesus Christ is within you unless you are insincere?" (2 Cor. 13:5).

After telling a believing gentile man (Luke 17:19), "Rise and go: your 'faith' has cured you.," Jesus then told the unbelieving Pharisees (verses 20-21), "The Kingdom of God does not come so that you can stealthily watch for it. "Nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' --for the 'Kingdom of God' is within you."

The 'Kingdom of God' (or the nature of Christ) 'grows' within a 'believer' who remains in the 'faith.' It will grow like a mustard seed planted in the ground, Jesus explained (Matt. 13:31-32) "The Kingdom of the Heavens," He said, "is like a mustard-seed, which a man takes and sows in his ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, and yet when full-grown it is larger than any herb and forms a tree, so that the birds come and build in its branches." (or) He said (vs.33), it "is like yeast which a woman takes and buries in a bushel of flour, for it to 'work' there till the whole mass has risen."

(Hebrews 12:14 instructs us to), "Persistently strive for peace with all men, "and" for that "growth' in 'holiness' apart from which no one will see the Lord."

That is the 'growth' of the 'Kingdom of the Heavens' 'within you,' that Jesus was speaking of in His parables about the 'mustard seed' and the 'yeast'. It is for those who surrender to live by the 'Spirit of Christ' within themselves) (so that they might 'see the Lord'.)

When one gets away from God's 'Word' (and away from 'doing' God's 'will' in their life), they will lose the guidance of the Holy Spirit, (as Jesus explained). Their spiritual growth will stop at that point, (be 'put on hold' for the time being) until they are willing to make corrections as God shows them, and 'get back' to doing God's 'will' in their life.

However, Jesus ascended to Heaven after His resurrection to life, to go before us to

the 'Throne of Grace' at God's right hand to plead for us. His 'Throne of Grace' is always open for us to return our heart and our life to His Father, through trusting in 'The Son', (and thus, 'get back to doing His 'will' in our life). He is pleading for His Father to bring each one to repent and reconsecrate one's life to Him in real faith. "Draw near with 'sincerity' and unfaltering faith" (Hebr.10:22 says).

God, (who wants no one to perish) has said to everyone who will listen, (you) "return to me, and I will return to you." (Malachi 3:7). So, Jesus is saying (from His throne of 'grace'), come to Me with a repentant heart, and sincerely confess your mistakes, for I have already paid the price for your forgiveness with My Blood. You don't have to bring any payment with you, the price has been paid.

That is 'God's Message of the Cross' for all of us to understand and believe, so that we can base our faith on that faithful Message. Jesus is saying to us, accept the mercy and grace that I am extending to you, for I am pleading for my Father to bring you to Me. (Hebrews 7:25), "Hence too He is able to 'save' to the uttermost, those who come to God through Him, seeing that He ever lives to plead for them."

(Jesus told us, John 14:6). "I am the Way", "and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

As confessions are sincerely made to God (and apologies to others, if needed), God can then graft a person back onto the vine, to once again be a 'believer' guided by the Holy Spirit. That person's spiritual growth will no longer be 'put on hold', when they return to obeying God's Word and 'trusting' in God's Son, for as Jesus explained, the Holy Spirit is for 'believers' not for 'unbelievers'.

The Holy Scriptures will again take on real meaning to the 'learning' Christian (who is 'willing' to follow Christ's teachings), and be led and guided by His Spirit to make scriptural decisions, and correct choices in circumstance in their life, ..thus, returning to a 'life of faith', and a life of 'trusting' in the Son of God.

Hebrews 3:18-19, reminds us, "And to whom did He swear that they should not be admitted to His rest, if it was not to those who were disobedient? And so, we see that it was

owing to 'lack of faith' that they could not be admitted." (NKJV says, "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." (Hebr.4:1-2 warns, "Therefore let us be on our guard, lest perhaps, while He still leaves us a 'promise' of being admitted to His rest, some one of you should be found to have 'fallen short' of it." For Good News has been brought to us as truly as to them; but the message they heard failed to benefit them, 'because' they were not one in faith, with those who gave heed to it."

God's 'message' through Jesus, about Himself, and what He came to earth to do for us, is a message that gives 'Life', to those who believe (and get back to trusting) in Him for things in this life,..(AS "JESUS" DID SO HIMSELF!), (while setting an example for us to follow). Jesus Christ not only set the example of trust that He wants everyone to follow, but, He is also the appointed judge of every one's soul in this life on earth (and after this life). (Acts 10:42) "And He has commanded us to preach to the people and solemnly declare that this is He who has been appointed by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead."

And (John 5:21-23) "For just as the Father awakens the dead and gives them life, so the Son also gives life to whom He wills. The Father indeed does not judge any one, but He has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son even as they honor the Father."

We can see from these verses, that Jesus is the judge of the very soul of everyone. Neither God, nor His Son, Jesus Christ, gives anyone else the right to judge where one's soul will go, when they pass from this life. When a minister would try to preach a person's soul into heaven after they pass away, that minister is overstepping their boundaries (as a minister of God's Word). The Scriptures tell us, quote "He (God) has entrusted all judgment to the Son," and "solemnly declare that this is He who has been appointed by God to be the judge of the living and the dead." Unquote (We might add that He is more merciful than any human being on earth.)

Our assurance should come as always, from God's Word and His promise, in His Scriptures, to reward those who are faithful to the end, with the 'crown of life', (as well as from

knowing from the Scriptures of God's great and never-ending mercy and love for us). It is simply not anyone's place to make that judgment about one's soul, rather, to simply put our trust on God's faithfulness and mercy, and then to take comfort in that.

God's Message about His Christ grants 'Life' to those who believe what He did for them on the Cross, to purchase salvation for all believers in the faith. (Acts 10:43) "To Him all the Prophets bear witness and testify that through His name all who believe in Him receive the forgiveness of their sins."

Jesus shed His own blood and died for us, to pay the price for us to be cleansed of our sin, pardoned for those sins, and forgiven for those sins. As we come to know and understand His Word (His 'Truth'), we should come to know that there is only one 'Truth'. Jesus said, "As for 'you', "if" you hold fast to my teaching, then you are truly my disciples; and you shall know the 'Truth', and the 'Truth' will make you free."

So, we want to fully comprehend the "Message of the Cross", and why Jesus came to this earth to set an example of a 'sinless life', and an example of a life of faith and trust. Also, why He shed His blood to pardon and cleanse everyone who will sincerely repent (of the self-life) and be willing to 'follow' Him as guided by His Spirit within oneself. Also, why He gave His lifeblood to purchase Eternal Life for those who truly 'trust' in Him, and remain trusting' in Him, to the end, to receive that promised 'Crown of eternal Life'.

God's Message of the Cross' grants Everlasting Life"!!

SOME MAIN POINTS OF GOD'S 'MESSAGE OF THE CROSS' GRANTS LIFE:

1./ To understand why Jesus came and set an example of living a life of faith and trust. Also, to believe and accept the fact that He gave His lifeblood to pardon and cleanse us from our sins, (when we are willing to sincerely confess those sins).

2./ Also, Jesus explained that the Holy Spirit was sent to those who are obedient in faith "that Spirit the world cannot receive", He said.

3./ And, Jesus gave us a 'message of guidance' that grants 'eternal life' to those who 'believe' His 'Message' and follow Him. There is no other message which can promise that.

4./ His Atonement work on the Cross is in fulfillment of His Message, and it paid the price for our salvation. However, His Message is foolishness to those who refuse to repent and believe, and "who are on the way to perdition" (we are told 1 Cor.1:18).



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