



## **The Cross of Christ**

### **Part 4 : The Wisdom of The Cross**

Part 1: The Centrality of the Cross  
Part 2: Shadows of the Cross  
Part 3: The Cross in Prophecy

Key Text: 1 Corinthians 1:17-25

We seek to understand the wisdom of God expressed through the Cross of Christ.

#### ***Substitution***

**Hebrews 2:9**

**But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for (Gr. *huper*) everyone.**

**Romans 5:8**

**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for (Gr. *huper*) us.**

**1 Peter 3:18**

**For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for (Gr. *huper*) the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,**

**Galatians 3:13**

**Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for (Gr. *huper*) us (for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"),**

The Greek word used in relation to our Lord's death is '*huper*' which can be translated four different ways:

- 1) Instead of
- 2) In place of
- 3) On behalf of
- 4) As a substitute for

Substitution means that He became what we were. He took our place.

Only a Perfect Man could become a substitute for sinful man. Man who was already a sinner could not become a substitute for other men, because he would have to die for his own sins.

So there had to be a Second Adam like the first Adam, only that this second Adam had to be perfect.

The only way there could be a Perfect Man, was if God would become man, if deity put on humanity, and went instead of, in place of, on behalf of and as a substitute for man.

So here is the wisdom of the Cross. On the Cross, although it appeared that a man was dying – it was deity suffering for humanity.

The real work was spiritual. For perfect holiness to come in contact with sin is far worse than all the physical humiliation and torture He endured.

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

**For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**



### **2 Corinthians 8:9**

**For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.**

The divine exchange:

He died, so that we can live.

He was torn away from God, so that we can be brought to God.

He became sin, so that we can be made righteousness.

He became poor, so that we could be made rich.

He took our place here on earth, to give us a place with Him in heaven.

He became what we were so we could share in who He is.

The Son of God became Son of Man, so that sons of men, could become sons of God.

***Substitution teaches me that God loves me immensely – so much that He would take my place Himself.***

### ***Atonement***

Atonement means that Jesus met the demands of God's justice for sin and toward the sinner.

Christ became our Atonement in order to turn aside God's anger towards sin and complete the requirements of God's judgment towards sin.

His substitutionary death removed the barrier between man and God and offered unlimited atonement to all. He, the last Adam, broke down all the walls that the first Adam constructed.

The cross put to death the enmity man had with God.

### **Ephesians 2:14-16**

**14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,  
15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,  
16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.**

### **Colossians 1:19-22**

**19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,  
20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.  
21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled  
22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—**

### **Romans 3:23-26**

**23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,  
25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,  
26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

Because of the Cross, God could pardon the sinner freely, and still remain Just.

There were two legal imputations which occurred: (A legal imputation = someone being held in account for something he did not do):

1) The sins of the world were imputed to the perfect, impeccable humanity of Jesus Christ on the cross.



2) The perfect righteousness of God is imputed to every believer at the point of salvation.

We have to reconcile two things here: the fact that God is a loving heavenly Father and yet He is angry with sin and demand a sacrifice to satisfy his righteousness. God's character has not changed. "Even when He is angry with man's sin God loves man and is concerned with his well-being in the fullest sense. There is a divine love, but it is not a careless sentimentality indifferent to the moral integrity of the loved ones. Rather it is a love which is a purifying fire, blazing against everything that hinders the loved ones from being the very best that they can be." (Leon Morris)

**Romans 5:1,2**

**1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

**Romans 5:8-11**

**8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.  
10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.  
11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

***Atonement teaches me that God wants a relationship with me – so much that He would Himself would bear sin's judgment to make it possible.***

**Hebrews 10:1-22**

### ***Redemption***

Because of the Fall, we came under subjection to sin, satan and death.

The Court of Heaven could not "legally" release us from this bondage/slavery/subjection until a price had been paid for sin. This price for sin, is call the ransom.

Christ paid the ransom, the price for sin and thus set us free (redeemed) from the dominion of sin, satan and death.

Christ gave His life as the ransom (the price) for sin, for every one.

**Matthew 20:28**

**just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom (Gr. 'lutron' = redemption price) for many."**

**1 Timothy 2:5,6**

**5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,  
6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,**

By definition there can be no redemption of people without the payment of a price. God cannot simply write-off the debt.

The Cross was an act of redemption, the deliberate buying back of people out of their debt, on the payment of a price. The price paid was the blood of Jesus shed on the Cross.



The ransom was not something paid to satan, because God doesn't owe satan a ransom. God owes satan nothing!

**Hebrews 9:14**

**14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

Redemption

His death was the price paid to buy, ransom or redeem us.

We have been "bought" (1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23; 2 Peter 2:1; Rev. 5:9, 14:3-4), "redeemed" (Gal. 3:13; 4:5) and "purchased" (Acts 20:28).

Mankind was redeemed (or bought back) from life under the curse of having to live under the Law (Gal. 3:10-14).

We are redeemed from bondage to sin (Titus 2:14), from an "empty way of life" (1 Peter 1:18), from this present evil world (Galatians 1:4), and from the powers of darkness (Colossians 1:13,14).

Result

We are now free – redeemed from the Fall. We begin to enjoy the benefits of our redemption which will be culminated in the resurrection (or transformation) of our bodies.

We are now owned by God and therefore have an obligation to do what pleases Him. Slavery to God is true freedom.

***Redemption teaches me that God desires so much to restore me from the Fall – that He would Himself pay a great price to make it possible.***

That's why I can boldly pray, ask and expect blessings, healing, deliverance, prosperity, etc. Anything that affirms "I am redeemed".

***The One to Many***

Romans 5:14-21

One man was disobedient, many became sinners. One Man was obedient, many became righteous.

One man sinned, death passed on many. One Man was sinless, many received life.

One man was disobedient, judgment passed on many. One Man was obedient, many were made favoured and declared righteous.

One man sinned, many became slaves. One Man was obedient, many were released from captivity to reign in life.

One man sinned, many lost sonship. One Man was obedient, many regained sonship.