

## **The Finished Work of The Cross (What was finished? What was the work?) – Part 1**

### **1. Recap (expanded) from last meeting; we discussed...**

- a) The believer's union with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We went over scripture that talked about receiving the Holy Spirit when you believed in Christ. (Not progressive, received all at once when you believed). **Gal. 3:14 (NLT)** *(In more context below)*.
- b) Belonging to Christ when you believe. **Rom. 8:9 (AMP)**. *"He (The Holy Spirit) lives and makes His home in believers"*. **1 Jn. 3:24 (AMPC)**.
- c) The "anointing" and the "unction" noted in **1 Jn. 2:27** as being the Holy Spirit that abides permanently in believers. Let's read again through **1 Jn. 2:27 (AMPC)**. Christ being "in believers" because of the Holy Spirit. We cannot "belong to Christ" without the Holy Spirit. Those who believe in Christ are filled with the Holy Spirit and as a result belong to Christ, are in union with Christ, are in Christ and Christ in them and are seated with Him in Heavenly places because of this union. More on seated with Him in Heavenly places below. **Eph. 2:4-6 (AMP)**. Those who have not believed in Christ are not filled with the Holy Spirit and do not yet belong and are not yet in union with. i.e. "not His".
- d) *"Children of God through faith in Jesus Christ"*. **Gal. 3:24-25 (NLT)**. This ties in with belonging to Christ. ...and when you are a child of God you now have an inheritance which is the Holy Spirit! **Eph. 1:13-14 (AMP)** *"when you heard the word of truth, the good news of your salvation, and [as a result] believed in Him, were stamped with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit"*
- e) This is our incentive to share the good news of the Gospel, so that those who are lost will believe and be saved. **Acts. 16:17, 16:31 (NLT)**. **A quick note on 16:31** "along with everyone in your household." – **Commentary:** *"The offer of salvation by faith in Jesus was offered to the jailer, and to his whole household. The message of salvation was proclaimed to the jailer, and his whole household. This offer is not for him alone, however, but for his whole household as well. If they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, they will be saved as well. The promise is not made that if he, as the head of the household believes, his entire household is saved by his faith. "You cannot be saved by someone else's faith."*
- f) "Saved by His grace when you believed." **Eph. 2:8-9 (NLT)**.

### **2. The Finished Work of the Cross (Part 1)**

- a) **Jn. 19:30 (AMP)** "it is finished" – Greek "Tetelestai" – **Paid in Full**. Note on **Jn. 19:30** "This wording implies that Jesus voluntarily and sovereignly released His spirit from His body in submission to God's plan."
- b) What was paid in full? - *(The penalty of sin)*
- c) What was finished? - *(“The Old Covenant”, “The requirement of the law” and “The power of sin and Satan”)*. What Christ did on the cross finished the Old Covenant of

law keeping (*The end of the law for righteousness*". Rom. 10:4) and brought in the New Covenant of being made right with God through faith alone, the new way of faith. **Eph. 2:8-9 (AMP). Believe and receive salvation.**

- d) Believers are: "no longer under law but under grace", "no longer bound to the law", "no longer a slave to sin", "no longer separated from God".
- e) What was the work Jesus came to do? - (*To seek and save the lost*)  
Discuss...
- f) **Gal. 3:11-14 (NLT)** - When Christ was hung on the cross, he took upon Himself the curse for our wrongdoing. He redeemed us from the curse of the law and provided a new way of faith. \* (*Read Gal. 3:13-14 Commentaries – see below*).
- g) **Mat. 5:17-18; Rom. 8:3-4** - Christ fulfilled the law and the Prophets. - There are 300 hundred prophecies about the coming of the Messiah. All fulfilled by Jesus.
- h) **Lk. 19:10 (NLT)** - Christ came to seek and save those who are lost.
- i) **Jn. 1:9-10 (NLT)** - The true light was coming into the world. And indeed, Christ came into the world and became flesh, suffered, and died on the cross so that "*all who believe in and call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved.*" **Rom. 10:13** and made a way to be saved through faith and not works. "*For by grace you have been saved through faith. .. not of works, lest anyone should boast.*" **Eph. 2:8-9.**
- j) **Rom. 3:12-31 (NLT)** – Christ took our punishment. Christ sacrifice freed us from the penalty for our sins. Provided atonement for all who would believe in Him.  
Atonement: the reconciliation of God and humankind through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. He was the Propitiation for our sins. **1 Jn. 2:2, 4:10; Rom. 3:21-26.**

As a result of all above (*...and what we will cover in next meeting*) , we are seated with Him in Heavenly places. **Eph. 2:4-6 (AMP).** Where are these Heavenly places? Let's back up to **Eph. 1:18-21 (AMP).** Far above ALL. "*Above all rule and authority and power and dominion [whether angelic or human], and [far above] every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age and world but also in the one to come.*" - This is where we stand as believers and because of what Christ did on the cross for us., because of His finished work. When we believe in Jesus Christ, we receive the finished work of the cross.

**3:12** The law does not ask men to believe. It does not even ask men to *try* and keep the commandments. It calls for strict, complete and perfect obedience, as was so clearly taught in Leviticus. It is a contrary principle to faith. The law says: "Do and live." Faith says: "Believe and live". Paul's argument then is this: The just person shall live by faith. A person under **law** does **not** live by **faith**. Therefore, he is not just before God. When Paul says : "The man who does them shall live by them," he is stating a theoretical axiom or ideal but one that is impossible to attain.

**3:13** To redeem is to buy back, to deliver by paying the price. The curse of the law is death – the penalty for breaking it's commandments. Christ has delivered those under the law from paying the penalty of death demanded by the law. (Paul is undoubtedly speaking primarily of believing Jews when he uses pronoun **us**.) "But Christ has rescued (**us believers**) from the curse pronounced by the law."

Cynddylan Jones says: "The Galatians imagined that Christ only half purchased them, and that they had to purchase the rest by their submission to circumcision and other Jewish rights and rituals. Hence their readiness to be led away by false teachers and to mix up Christianity and Judaism. Paul says here: (according to the Welsh translation) "Christ hat wholly purchased us from the curse of the law."

**Christ redeemed** men by dying in their place, enduring the dreadful wrath of God against sin. The **curse** of God fell on Him as man's substitute. He did not become sinful in Himself but man's sins were placed upon Him.

Christ did not redeem men **from the curse of the law** by keeping the ten commandments perfectly during His lifetime. Scripture does not teach that His perfect obedience to the law is reckoned to us. Rather He delivered men from the law by bearing it's dreadful curse in death. Apart from His death there could be no salvation. The law taught that when condemned criminals were hanged on a tree, it was a sign of their being under the curse of God. (Duet. 21:23). Here the Holy Spirit sees in that passage a prophecy of the manner in which the Savior would die to bear the curse of His creatures. He was hung between Heaven and earth as though unworthy of either. In His death by crucifixion, He is said to have been hanged **on a tree** (Acts 5:30; 1 Pet. 2:24).

**3:14** God had promised to bless Abraham and to bless all the world through Him. **The blessing of Abraham** is really salvation by grace through faith. The penalty of death required by God must first be paid. So the Lord Jesus was made a curse in order that God might reach out to both Jews and Gentiles in grace. Now in Christ (a descendant of Abraham). The nations are blessed.

God's promise to Abraham in Gen. 12:3 does not mention the Holy Spirit. But Paul tells us here, by inspiration of God, that the gift of the **Holy Spirit** was included in God's unconditional covenant of salvation with Abraham. It was there in embryo. The Holy Spirit could not come as long as the law was in the way. Christ had to die and be glorified before the Spirit could be given. (Jn. 16:7).

## Homework:

The New Covenant provides a new way of faith: **Gal. 2:16-21, 3:23-25 (NLT), Phil. 3:7-9 (AMPC), Rom. 3:21-22, 4:16, 5:1-2 (NLT)**, and complete access to His presence (**Heb. 10:19-25 AMPC**) because of the blood of Christ and our faith in Him! **1 Tim. 4:9-11** is an interesting passage to dig into. This passage says *“God is the savior of all men... especially those who believe.”* The first part is referencing Christ dying on the cross making a way for all men to be saved, the second part is referring believers being saved through faith in Christ. Many confuse the first part to mean all humanity is saved. That is not what the Bible teaches is full context. Here are some important commentaries on this passage:

The Believer’s Bible Commentary by William MacDonald explains **1 Tim. 4:10** noted above perfectly: *“God is the savior of all men in the same sense that He preserves them in the daily providences of life. But He is also the savior of all men in this sense: **He has made adequate provision for the salvation of all men.** He is the savior of those who believe in a special way because they availed themselves of His provision. **We might say that He is the potential savior of all men and the actual savior of those who believe.**”*

In other words, God the Father made a way for salvation through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and that way and only way, is by believing in His Son, Jesus Christ: **Mk. 1:15; Jn. 3:1-8, 16-17, 36, 5:24, 14:6, 20:31; Acts 4:12, 16:17,31; Rom. 10:4-17; Gal. 2:16; Rom. 10:9-13, 17: Eph. 1:13-14, 2:8-10; 2 Tim. 1:9. Jn. 3:1-8 Heb.11:1; 1 Jn. 4:15, 5:4.** (a short list)

I also recommended this excellent breakdown of **Tim. 4:9-11** from Precept Austin commentaries. [1 Tim. 4:9-11 Commentary](#). Here is an excerpt in regard to “of all men”. - Of all men - this phrase has led to fruitless discussions that God saves "all men", but even this passage specifies "believers". If that is not sufficient, there are many passages that clearly teach God while being able to save all men, actually saves only those who place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on Calvary. For example Jesus declared... *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (Jn. 5:24)*. The apostle John adds that... *“The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son. And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.” (1 John 5:10-13)*.

