



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

It has been rightly said that “the cross of Christ was a pulpit, in which Jesus preached God’s love to the world.” While this is certainly true, it can be easily misunderstood. For while the cross of Christ certainly declared the love of God, it also unmistakably declared the wrath of God. Christ’s crucifixion proclaims both the good news and the bad news of the Gospel.

The cross is at one time both a symbol of the eternal horrors and consequences of sin, and the infinite love and grace of God. First, the cross represents God’s divine perspective on sin. Anyone who wonders what God thinks of sin has only to look at the crucifixion of His one and only Son, Jesus Christ. For, in order to justly provide forgiveness for sin, God allowed – in fact, predestined – His Son to be brutally persecuted, tortured, and murdered (Is.53:4-6; Mk.15:15-39; Acts 2:22-23). The sacrificial death of the perfectly sinless Son of God is a vivid demonstration of God’s hatred of sin. Simultaneously, the cross displays God’s infinitely gracious love. For anyone who wonders if God loves sinners has only to look to the crucifixion of God’s one and only Son, Jesus Christ. God’s forgiveness is based solely upon His undeserved grace given to all believers as Christ endured the full punishment for sin and absorbed the full wrath of God in their place (Jn.3:16-18; Rom.5:5-8; Eph.1:3-8, 2:3-9). The substitutionary death of the perfectly sinless Son of God is a vivid demonstration of God’s love for sinners.

Thus, the cross of Christ serves as a fork in the road between heaven and hell. As the Bible makes abundantly clear, all people *“have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Rom.3:23; Rom.3:10-12). That is, apart from receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior everyone is deserving of God’s eternal wrath and punishment for sin. But in Christ, and Christ alone, there is forgiveness. In the Bible, we read these incredible words of our sin and God’s forgiveness: *“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives”* (1Jn.1:8-10). At the same time the cross reveals our need for a Savior, it reveals our Savior!

In Christ, forgiveness is guaranteed. For everyone who has truly received Christ as their Lord and Savior has their sins completely and eternally forgiven. Thankfully, the Bible states this truth clearly: *“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of His glory”* (Eph.1:13-14). Christ’s death, and subsequent resurrection, was the “once for all” sacrifice needed to fully and eternally pay for the sins of all who would ever believe (Heb.10:10; 1Pet.3:18). In and through Jesus Christ, all believers have been forgiven from the penalty and power of sin forever!

Forgiveness is not cheap; nor is it without cost. The message of the cross is not that God tolerates or ignores sin. In fact, quite the opposite. The message of the cross is that God finds sin so utterly offensive and repulsive He stopped at nothing less than sacrificing His one and only Son so that all who would believe in Him would be forgiven. But that is not all. The message of the cross is that God loves sinners so much that He sent His one and only Son to pay the full penalty for their sins. So, the message of the cross is twofold. In effect, one beam declares that God hates sin (with a holy hatred), and the other beam declares that God loves sinners (with a holy love).

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(8/24/26)

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #34):

Numbers 5-8; 1 Chronicles 10-14; Psalms 99-101; Proverbs 19; Hosea 1-7; John 7-9; 1 Timothy 4-6

Recommended Reading:

“High King of Heaven” ed. by John MacArthur