

The Glory of the Cross

Scripture:

Galatians 6:14

Galatians 6:14-16 KJV But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Introduction

The cross stands at a place in time marking radical change in the hopes of men and women. It stands as a monument to the greatest shift in God's attitude toward men, and the beginning of man's greatest opportunity to realize his full potential.

I. It marks the end of law and the beginning of grace

Romans 8:2-4 KJV For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. {3} For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: {4} That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

A. The law spotlighted our failure to measure up

Romans 5:21 KJV That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

B. Grace demonstrates God's love toward us

Romans 5:8 NIV But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1. Grace means he cuts us some slack
2. Grace shows his love

II. It marks the end of religion and the beginning of relationship

James 1:27 KJV Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

A. Religion is our effort to know God

B. Relationship is God's way of cooperating with us so we can know Him

Philippians 3:10-11 NIV I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

III. It marks the end of your old life and the beginning of your new

Romans 6:4 KJV Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

A. New beginnings have always characterized the ministry of Jesus

1. Simon the fisherman - Peter the apostle
2. Saul the Pharisee - Paul the apostle
3. Mary Magdalene the demonized - Mary who first saw the risen Jesus

4. Jacob the liar - Israel, a prince with God
 5. Rahab the prostitute - Rahab progenitor of Jesus Christ
- B. He wants to make your life new
1. New hope
 2. New purpose
 3. New direction
 4. New future
- C. What God says to you through Jesus' cross
1. You have failed, but you're not a failure
 2. You have sinned, but you're not a sinner
 3. You may have been bound, but you're no longer a prisoner

Conclusion

The glory of the cross is that it is the place where what always has been in your life no longer is. And what never could be in your life now becomes possible, even likely. Because Jesus came to make things new.

Revelation 21:5 NIV He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new.'