



Counseling and the Finished Work of Christ

Works of the Flesh: Destroyed by the Cross of Christ

Dr. Antonio M. Attfred
Rev. July 17, 2017



Introduction

- Sin's vile destructive effects on man and creation is visible in all aspects of life.
- The evil works of the flesh, such as murder, strife, and envy continue to corrupt what God once called good.
- The sting of death has been removed.
- The cross of Christ destroys the works of the flesh because the wages of sin is paid by the death of the Son of God.



The Cross of Christ Pays the Price for Sin

- Romans 6.23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- Hebrews 9.22 "the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."
- In the beginning, Adam and Eve sinned against God by eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil-the forbidden fruit.
- As a result of their disobedience, sin and death entered the world.

The Cross of Christ Pays the Price for Sin

- Death and sin was God's punishment and their wages paid for the works of their flesh. In addition, man and creation were put under a curse.
- Death and sin reigned over man and cause him great fear and distress.
- Nevertheless, God's justice for disobedience was accompanied with His mercy for the world He created.
- He gave His only begotten Son - Jesus Christ to die on the cross and take away the scourge of sin and death in the world.

The Cross of Christ Pays the Price for Sin

- In the cross of Christ, the law of God is fulfilled.
- To illustrate, there is an incident in John 8:3-5 where a woman is caught committing adultery and Christ is called upon to pass judgment.
- "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery... In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"

The Cross of Christ Pays the Price for Sin

- Jesus told the adulterous that He would not condemn her nor accuse her of sin.
- If it had not been for the cross set before Him, this act would have been unjust.
- Yet, because of the Cross, the Laws were satisfied because He was the unblemished (sinless) offering for this woman's sin.
- On the cross, He took away the penalty of sin - the work of the flesh - death.

The Cross of Christ Pays the Price for Sin

- In the cross of Christ, God's justice is upheld without compromise.
- In the cross of Christ God's justice and mercy are vindicated.
- Martin Lloyd-Jones has said, "The cross is the vindication of God. The Cross not only shows the love of God... it shows His righteousness, His justice, His holiness, and all the glory of His eternal attributes".
- There He displayed God's hatred for sin and His love for the world that He created.

The Cross of Christ Pays the Price for Sin

- In the cross of Christ, God displays His love toward creation.
- The Bible says that God love the world in this way, that He gave His one and only unique Son to die for it in order to save it.
- The purpose of the Christ priesthood was to become human and know all the temptations of humanity.
- Thus, he is able to help His people deal with sin in the flesh because: he knows their trials and is at ways before God the Father pleading their case to get help in time of need.

The Cross of Christ Pays the Price for Sin

- God showed His unfailing love for the world by becoming involved in the crisis.
- On the cross Christ showed to what length He was willing to go to save the lost.
- According to Michael Bobicic, Jesus' "Involvement is an essential part of His sacrificial work. He has 'once offered up... Himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine Justice, and reconcile us God'.

The Cross of Christ Removes the Authority of Sin

- Before the Cross, sinful desires ruled the hearts of man.
- In this age, believers who have placed their faith in the finished work of Christ have are distinctly different than Old Testament saints.
- Through Christ they have been born again and given a new heart.
- They have been given His Spirit of power who rules and reigns over sin in the flesh.

The Cross of Christ Removes the Authority of Sin

- The old man is crucified, with his bent toward doing wrong.
- Through the cross the old man has been crucified.
- Though there still remains a struggle within the body of a saved soul.
- It is not due to a resurrection of the old man.
- Nevertheless, the new man is born, with his bent toward doing right.

The Cross of Christ Removes the Authority of Sin

- Christians are given an example to follow in Christ.
- Jesus suffered the opposition of sin every day of His life on earth as the God-man.
- Martin Luther explains that "the Cross entirely transform the whole problem of life and living in this world".
- In the Cross of Christ, man can find balm for the sickness of his flesh.
- He can become a new person, no longer under law, but under grace, no longer in Adam, but in Christ."

The Cross of Christ Rem oves the Authority of Sin

- **The law of love for God and man is engraved in the heart of man.**
- **When speaking of the heart of man, it has to do with his mind.**
- It is with the mind that man begins to know the law and the love of God.
- It is only a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is aware of the presence of evil in his heart.

The Cross of Christ Remo ves the Auth ority of Sin

- **Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members* (Romans 7:20-23) .**

The Cross of Christ Removesthe Authority of Sia

- **In the above passage, Paul depicts one of the major struggles experienced by aborn again believers.**
- The problem is not that the spirit is holy and the body sinful.
- **Rather, the struggle experienced is the result of sin's continued control over unregenerate flesh.**
- **The cross of the Lord Jesus Christ has brought about deliverance from this body of death.**

The Cross of Christ Removes the Authority of Sin

- Lundgaard says that the "mind can only protect against the deceit of the flesh if you are crossed eyed".
- Meaning that only through the cross of Christ is the works of the flesh shattered.
- In Christ, God's Laws- love for God and man- has been written on the heart of God's children
- Jesus fulfilled the law and through Him power, love, and self control to do good works in the flesh is possible by faith.

The Cross of Christ Gives Hope in the Face of Sin and Death

- For many decades, many of God lived in fear of pending death.
- Even the Lord Jesus Christ mourned over the death of his close friend Lazarus.
- Yet, at the burial site of His dead comrade, Christ affirmed that He was the "resurrection and the life".
- He assured the sisters of Lazarus that anyone who died believing in Him would live.
- As a result of the resurrection of Christ from the dead, saints have hope in the face of sin.

The Cross of Christ Gives Hope in the Face of Sin and Death

- All things are used for the good for God's children.
- Amazingly, God uses the sin in the world to the good of His children.
- This is possible because the cross for Christ has removed the sting of sin-death.
- If a trial should be endured to the point of shedding blood, death is swallowed up in the victory of the cross of Christ.

The Cross of Christ Gives Hope in the Face of Sin and Death

- The promise of resurrection from the dead is accomplished.
- Without the death of Christ on the cross, there is no resurrection.
- Without the resurrection, there is no proof of His power over sin and death.
- MacArthur proposes that the cross graphically displays the "the awfulness of sin, the profundity of God's wrath against sin, and the efficacy of Jesus' work in crucifying the old man".

The Cross of Christ Gives Hope in the Face of Sin and Death

- Christ endured the shame of cross and He has been lifted up from the dead to the right hand of the throne of God in heaven.
- Jesus hanged in agony but now He rules with all power and authority.
- God is now putting all His enemies under His feet.
- At the cross Christ was mocked and cursed by His enemies. However, soon **every knee** will bow before the slain Lamb of God.

The Cross of Christ Gives Hope in the Face of Sin and Death

- Salvation, not by works, is made available to all who believe.
- John MacArthur has said, "The cross is central to the gospel".
- The cross of Christ was necessary to kill the works of the flesh.
- On the cross, Jesus took upon Himself the sin of the world and bore all the penalties for violating the laws of God.

The Cross of Christ Gives Hope in the Face of Sin and Death

- In order for a man to enter heaven, he must be righteous both outward and inward.
- This was impossible without the cross of Christ.
- Through faith in what was done at the cross of Christ, a man born a sinner is born again.
- It is only through the cross of Christ that the works of the flesh is destroyed and salvation made available to anyone who believes the gospel.

Conclusion

- The cross of Christ **crushed** the works of sinful flesh because Jesus death paid the wages of sin once for all.
- Lundgaard says, "The death of sin comes through the death of Christ. He **died** to destroy the flesh".
- It removes the authority of sin in the flesh.
- The finished work of Christ on the cross has crushed sin and **will** bring liberation from death unto eternal life.
