

THE PURPOSE OF THE CROSS

1 Corinthians 1:17-21

For Christ sent me not to immerse*, but to proclaim the good-news; not in wisdom of words, (that* the cross of Christ might not be made void). For* the word of the cross is indeed foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.*

For it has been written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and I will reject the understanding of the intelligent ones.' {Isa 29:14, Psa 33:10} Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this world? Has God not made the wisdom of the world foolish? For* since, in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know God, it delighted God through the foolishness of the preaching to save those who believe.*

Introduction:

Galatians 6:12 *As many as wish to have a good* countenance in the flesh, they are urging you* to be circumcised; only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.*

Galatians 6:14 *But let it not happen for me to boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.*

Philippians 3:18 *For* many are walking, (of whom I was speaking to you* often about them; now I am also telling you*, weeping), who are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*

Matthew 27:35-50 *Now having crucified him, 'they divided his garments among them, casting a lot {T} in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, which says, 'They divided my garments among them, and they cast a lot for my garment.' {Psa 22. 18} And sitting down, they were guarding him there. And they placed above his head an accusation that had been written, This Is Jesus the King of the Jews. Then two robbers are crucified together with him, one at the right and one at the left. Now those who traveled by were blaspheming him, wagging their heads, and saying, You who said he will tear-down the temple and build it in three days, save yourself. If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross. Now likewise, also the high-priests with the scribes and elders, mocking him, and were saying, He saved others, but yet he is not able to save himself. If he is the King of Israel; let him now come down from the cross and we will believe in him. He has confidence in God. Let him rescue him now, if he is willing to save him; for* he said, I am the Son of God. Now the robbers who were also crucified together with him were reproaching him with the same thing. Now there became darkness upon all the earth from the sixth hour until the ninth hour {i.e. Noon until 3:00 PM}. Now around the ninth hour {i.e. 3:00 PM} Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' {Psa 22:1} But some of them standing there, when* they heard it, were saying, This one is summoning Elijah. And immediately one out of them ran, taking a sponge and filled it with vinegar and placed it around a reed and were giving it to him to drink. But the rest were saying, Allow it, that we may see if Elijah comes; he will save him. Now Jesus, having cried again with a loud voice, his spirit leaves.*

I THE CROSS OF CHRIST

A Genesis 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Yes, has God said, You will not eat of any tree of the garden? And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, but of the fruit of the tree, which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, You will not eat of it, nor will you * touch it, lest you * die. And the serpent said to the woman, You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you * eat of it, then your * eyes will be opened and you * will be like God, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate. And she also gave to her husband with her and he ate.

Romans 5:12 Because of this, just-as sin entered into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death has gone forth to all men, in which all have sinned.

Isiah 59:1-2 Behold, Jehovah's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, nor his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your * iniquities have separated between you * and your * God and your * sins have hidden his face from you * so that he will not hear.

Romans 3:10 as it has been written, 'There is none righteous, not even one.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and come-short of the glory of God.

B John 3:16 For * God so loved * the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, in order that everyone who believes in him might not perish but may have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8 But God is establishing his own love * toward us, in that when * we were still sinners, Christ died on our behalf.

1 Peter 2:22 He who did no sin, nor was treachery found in his mouth;

C Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely, he has borne our griefs and has carried our sorrows. Yet we esteemed him stricken, struck by God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way and Jehovah has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For * him who knew no sin, he was made * the sin offering on our behalf; that * we might become the righteousness of God in him.

D Romans 6:1-18 Then * what will we say? Are we remaining in sin, in order that grace may increase? Let it not happen! We who died to sin, how will we live in it any longer? Or are you * ignorant that as many as were immersed * into Christ Jesus were immersed * into his death? Therefore, we were buried together with him through the immersion * into death; that * just-like Christ was raised up from the dead through the glory of the Father,

so we might also walk-in newness of life. For* if we have become unified together with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be unified with him in the likeness of his resurrection. Knowing this, that our old man was crucified together with him, in order that the body of sin might be done-away, that we are to no longer be enslaved to sin; for* he who has died has been justified away from sin. But if we died together with Christ, we believe that we will also live together with him; knowing that Christ having been raised up from the dead dies no more; death has no more lordship over him. For* the death that he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life that he is living, he is living to God. So, you* also, count yourselves to be indeed dead to sin, but living to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your* mortal body, *that* you* might obey* it in its lusts; nor present your* members to sin as weapons of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God, as living from the dead and your* members as weapons of righteousness to God. For* sin will not have lordship over you*; for* you* are not under law, but under grace. Then* what? Shall we sin, because we are not under law, but under grace? Let it not happen! Do you* not know, that to whom you* present yourselves as bondservants to obedience, you* are the bondservants to whom you* obey*; either of sin to death or of obedience to righteousness? But gratitude to God, that, though you* were bondservants of sin, you* obeyed* from the heart to that pattern of teaching to which you* were given; and having been made free from sin, you* were enslaved to righteousness.

Acts 22:16 And now, why are you hesitating? You yourself, stand up; be immersed* and bathe away your sins, calling upon the name of the Lord.

II THE OLD LAW WAS REMOVED WHEN CHRIST DIED ON THE CROSS.

A Galatians 3:16-19 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He did not say and to seeds, as of many, but as of one and 'to your seed,' which is Christ. {Gen. 22:18, 26:4} Now I am saying this: the law, having happened four hundred and thirty years afterward, is not invalidating the covenant* that has been validated beforehand by God in reference to Christ, *that* it should do-away-with the promise. For* if the inheritance is out of the law, it is no more out of the promise, but God has granted it to Abraham through the promise. Then* why is the law? It was added because of transgressions, till whenever the seed has come to whom it has been promised; having been appointed through messengers by the hand of an intermediary.

B Jeremiah 31:31 Behold, the days come, says Jehovah, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, Hebrews 8:8-13 For* finding-fault with them, he says, 'Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, That I will complete a new covenant* upon the house of Israel and upon the house of Judah; not according to the covenant* that I made* with their fathers in the day that I took them by their hand to lead them forth out of the land of Egypt, because they did not remain in my covenant* and I

neglected them, says the Lord. Because this is the covenant* that I will covenant* with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will give my laws into their mind and I will also write them upon their hearts. And I will be a God to them, and they will be covenanted into a people for me; and they may never* need to teach, saying, Know the Lord; to each one his fellow-citizen and each one his brother, because all will know me, from the little to the great of them. Because I will be lenient to their unrighteousness; I may never* remember their lawlessness and their sins anymore.' {Jer. 31:31-34} In the saying, a new covenant*, the first has become-obsolete. But what becomes-obsolete and is aged, it is near to disappearing.

- C Colossians 2:14-16 But over all these things be clothed with love*, which is the bond of maturity. And let the peace of God be arbitrating in your* hearts, to which you* were also called in one body and become thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you* richly, in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing each other in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing in gratitude in your* heart to the Lord.

Galatians 3:24 So-that the law has become our tutor to bring us to Christ, that* we might be justified from the faith.

Galatians 5:1 Therefore stand-firm in the freedom in which Christ made us free, and do not be held again in a yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:4 You* have been done-away-with, cut off from Christ, you* who are being justified by the law; you* have fallen from the grace of God.

III THE NEW LAW WENT INTO EFFECT WITH THE DEATH OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS.

- A Hebrews 9:15-17 And because of this, he is the intermediary of a new covenant*, his death having happened* for the redemption of the transgressions that were against the first covenant*, *that those who have been called may receive the promise of the everlasting inheritance. For* where there is a covenant*, it is a necessity for the death of him who covenanted it to be brought about. For* a covenant* is steadfast upon death; since it is never* in power when he who covenanted it is living.

Acts 8 – read.

Acts 16 – Read.

- B Hebrews 8:6 But now he has obtained a more excellent ministry*, inasmuch as he is also the intermediary of a better covenant*, which has been instituted upon better promises.
- C Hebrews 10:9,10 then he has said, 'Behold, I come to do your will, O God.' {Psa 40:6-8} He abolishes {Or: takes away permanently. Or: assassinates.} the first covenant*, in order that he should establish the second covenant*, in this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

IV THE PURPOSE OF THE CROSS WAS TO REMOVE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE.

A Deuteronomy 5:3. *Jehovah did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.*

B Mark 16:15,16 *And he said to them, When* you* travel into all the world, preach the good-news to the whole creation. He who believes and is immersed* will be saved, but he who disbelieves will be condemned.*

Acts 2:39 *For* to you* is the promise and to your* children and to all who are from afar, as many as the Lord our God may call to him.*

Acts 10:9-18. *Now on the next-day, while* those men were traveling and drawing near to the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray, around the sixth hour {i.e. Noon}. Now he became very hungry and wished to eat, but when* those men were preparing the food, a trance fell upon him. And he views the heaven having opened and a certain vessel coming down, like a great sheet having been bound and being dropped down by four edges upon the earth; in which were* all kinds of four-footed mammals and beasts and reptiles of the earth and birds of the heaven. And there came* a voice to him, Stand up Peter; sacrifice and eat. But Peter said, Not-so, Lord, because I have never* eaten anything, common or unclean. And a voice came to him again the second-time, What God has cleansed, you, do not make common. But this happened three-times and again the vessel was received up into heaven. Now as Peter was perplexed in himself what the vision which he had seen might be. And behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood by the gate, and having summoned them, they were inquiring if Simon, who was surnamed Peter, is lodged here.*

Acts 10:34-35. *Now Peter opened his mouth and said, In truth, I comprehended that God is not one who shows partiality but, in every nation, he who fears him and is working righteousness, is acceptable to him.*

Romans 1:16. *For* I am not ashamed of the good-news of Christ; for* it is the power of God* for salvation to everyone who believes; both to the Jew first and to the Greek.*

C. Ephesians 2:12-16 *That* we should be holy to the praise of his glory, we who have hoped before in Christ, in whom you* also, having heard the word of the truth, the good-news of your* salvation, in whom, having also believed, you* were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is a down-payment of our inheritance, to the redemption of God's ownership, to the praise of his glory. Because of this, I, also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is in you* and the love* which you* have toward all the holy-ones, do not cease giving-thanks on your* behalf, making* a remembrance of you* in my prayers;*

V THE CHURCH WAS PURCHASED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST SHED ON THE CROSS.

A Ephesians 3:10-11 in order that now the multifaceted wisdom of God might be made known through the {F} congregation* to the principalities and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the everlasting purpose which he made* in Christ Jesus our Lord;

Micah 4:1-3 But in the latter days it will happen, that the mountain of Jehovah's house will be established on the top of the mountains and it will be exalted above the hills and peoples will flow to it. And many nations will go and say, Come you* and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah and to the house of the God of Jacob and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. For out of Zion will go forth the law and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem. And he will judge between many peoples and will decide concerning strong nations afar off. And they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning-hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, nor will they learn war any more. _

Isaiah 2:2,3 And it will happen in the latter days, that the mountain of Jehovah's house will be established on the top of the mountains and will be exalted above the hills and all nations will flow to it. And many peoples will go and say, Come you* and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. For out of Zion will go forth the law and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem._

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will the sovereignty of it be left to another people, but it will break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it will stand forever.

Mark 9:1 And he was saying to them, **Assuredly I am saying to you***, **There are some of those standing here, who may never* taste of death, until they should see the kingdom of God having come in power.**

Acts 2 - read.

Acts 20:28 Therefore, take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit placed you* as overseers, to shepherd the congregation* of the Lord and God, which the Lord acquired through his own blood.

B Matthew 6:33 But first seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you*.

CONCLUSION:

1 Corinthians 1:23,24. but we preach Christ as having been crucified, indeed an offense to the Jews, but foolishness to the Greeks; but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.