

Nailed to the Cross

- *Colossians 2:8-15*

- **This morning I want to spend a few minutes talking about our past sins & what we are to do with them when we come to Christ & even for those of us who continue to battle with them years later as a seasoned Christian.**
 - If there is a setback in the average Christian's life, this would be one of them.
 - The agony & shame of past sins when trying to live for Christ today can often times render us helpless & leave us feeling so unworthy, even to the point of questioning God's grace & forgiveness. "Is it good enough for me?"
- **The beauty of this topic is this. God is clear on where He stands & what He has done with our past sins, we just have to line up with His view & move forward in our relationship with Him.**
- **Though we were once bound in the chains of our sin & we were "imprisoned" if you will in our guilt, God never intended for us to remain in that condition. We are not to be prisoners in or own sin, God intended for us to be free through His son, Jesus Christ.**
 - It was a custom in Rome, when a man was found guilty, condemned for a crime, if he were put in prison, they would take something and nail it to the prison door. It was called a *certificate of debt*. On that certificate of debt would be written the crime that this man was guilty of, the number of years that he would stay in prison. And, when he had fulfilled his duty to the law, his certificate of debt was marked *paid in full*. It was taken, given to the judge, who would have it notarized; and, he would carry it with him. And, if anybody were to accuse him of that crime again, he could pull out the certificate of debt, and say, "Yes, I may have been guilty, but it has been paid in full."
 - Now if a man was guilty of a capital offense, they would take the offense that he'd done, and they would nail it to his cross above his head. That's the reason that Pilate nailed above the head of the Lord Jesus, "Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews". Here was a man who made Himself King; and, that's why Pilate allowed Him to be crucified—because it was insurrection against Caesar; it was a crime worthy of death. And so the Romans would put on that cross whatever that individual had done. And, they crucified people openly, in public; and, they wanted people to see a man die in agony, and pain, and blood, and anguish upon that cross. And, every citizen who walked by would say, "I'll never do that. Whatever it is on that cross, whatever that person did, I will never do it, because I don't want to end up there."
- **In our scripture this morning, we are going to look at Jesus being nailed to that cross. We will look at our Lord taking the sins of all mankind with Him to the cross. But what I also want you to see this morning is all that God nailed to that cross, it is called here God's holy law or "the handwriting of ordinances."**
 - Jesus had not broken the holy law of God, but, "Him who knew no sin, God had made to be sin for us" ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)).
 - This handwriting of ordinances, from God's point of view, was nailed on the cross. They thought He was dying for sins against Caesar, but what He was dying for was our sins against a Holy God.
 - Now, when Jesus died, it was both tragedy and victory.
 - It was a tragedy because He never should have died. He had done no wrong.
 - They lied on Him; they abused Him; they misused Him. And, you and I were guilty of it. Our sins were the nails that put Jesus Christ on that cross, and our hard hearts were the hammers that drove those nails.
 - He willingly died because of our sin.

- And so, from that instance it was a tragedy. But on the one hand, it was victory.
 - While they were concerned with only nailing Jesus to that cross, Jesus was nailing somethings to that cross for you & me & we should claim victory today b/c of what He Nailed To The Cross.

1. The Condemnation of Sin

- *"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses" ([Colossians 2:13](#)).*
- My sin, your sin, our sin was nailed to the cross. What does that mean? It means He paid my debt; He bore my punishment; and He has taken my sin, nailed it to the cross. And, therefore, it was buried, when Jesus was buried, in the grave of God's forgetfulness.
 - If our past sins are EVER brought up again, it is one of 3 people.
 - Satan
 - Others
 - Ourselves
 - It is NEVER God
 - [Romans 8:1](#): *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."*
 - [Romans 8:33-34](#): *"Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us".*
- Now, what he's saying is this: "Who now can point the finger of accusation at me, at you, at us, because of our sin? Who can condemn us?"
- What he's asking is not, "Who will try to do it?" What he's asking is, "Who is qualified to condemn us?" The only One who could ever condemn us is God Himself, and God Himself has already counted us righteous if we are saved. He has justified us, and He has forgiven us of our sin never to lay that to our charge.
- Church, when you accepted Jesus Christ death on the cross as your substitute, you ask Him to save you from your sin, at that moment you were justified by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, because your sins were nailed to the cross. And, He has given you, now, a certificate of debt; and, on that certificate of debt is written, in the crimson blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, "Paid in full!"
 - That doesn't mean that, if you sin, God's going to overlook your sin. You know have the Holy Spirit living inside you & He will convict you of your sin & God may chastise you in regards to your sin so that you will turn back to Him. But for the Christian, there is now therefore no condemnation. Do you know why that is?
 - Because the condemnation of sin was nailed to the cross. The very sins that we are ashamed of today, b/c of Jesus sacrifice, they too have been nailed to the cross. So leave them there!

2. The Curse of the Law

- *"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross" ([Colossians 2:14](#)).*
- Now, the law of God is good. God's holy law is without blemish, without fault. But church, because we're sinners, to us, the law is a curse.
 - [Galatians 3:10](#): *"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them".*
 - [Galatians 3:13](#): *"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" ([Galatians 3:13](#)).*
- When Jesus was stretched out on that cross, He was made a curse for us, and He redeemed us. Through His death, He removed us from the curse of the law.

- This is why I am glad that my salvation was left up to God & not me. The Bible says that, if you try to live by the law in order to get to Heaven, friend, you're cursed. I mean, the wrath of God is upon you.
 - The Ten Commandments are a list of commands given by God in the O.T., but I believe those commands are in order even for us today, Amen?
 - They're not suggestions or options given for our picking, but they are literal commands for God's people given by a Holy God.
 - But if you say, "I'm just going to keep the Ten Commandments & get to Heaven by obeying them." Well, if that's your religion, you will go to a place called Hell, because you're under a curse.
 - No one here would dare say, "I've never, at one time, at any time, had an evil thought, a covetous thought; never, at one time, lusted; never, at one time, told a lie; never, at one time, took anything that didn't belong to me; never, at one time, was filled with pride, jealousy, vengeance?" Of course not.
 - Yet, the Bible says, *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all"* ([James 2:10](#)).
- If you are here this morning & you have been striving your whole life to get to Heaven by your own good works, stop it, for the Bible says, *"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them"* ([Galatians 3:10](#)).
- According to the law, I deserve Hell; you deserve Hell. But b/c of grace, I was given eternal life in Heaven. Jesus, on that cross, became a curse for us. And, when He died, He took God's righteous law that has every reason to cast us into Hell—and He nailed it to the cross; and, therefore, I'm freed from trying to save myself from my good works, and I have the glorious hope of a home in Heaven b/c of Jesus blood that was shed for me.

3. The Corruption of the Flesh

- *"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in the putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him to the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses"* ([Colossians 2:11-13](#)).
- Now, when the Bible says your *flesh*, it's not talking about your body; it's talking about that old sinful nature that you were born with. That sinful nature was nailed to the cross.
 - Before we were saved, we obeyed the flesh. That was our nature, that was our only desire. There was nothing we could do.
 - But, Jesus not only died to take away my sin; He died to take away that "old man", and that too was nailed to the cross.
 - *"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts"* ([Galatians 5:24](#)).
 - When you get saved, one of the first steps in obedience to the Lord you should take is to be baptized.
 - Now this doesn't make you "more saved" or complete your salvation, but what it does do is a symbolic example of what is spiritually taking place in your life.
 - We are dying to that old flesh & we are resurrected in newness of life through Christ. Dying to our old desires & now seeking to follow after the Lord with our lives.
 - [Romans 6:6](#): *"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."*

- Aren't you glad that this old flesh was nailed to the cross?

4. The Control of the Devil

- *"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it"* ([Colossians 2:15](#)).
- When he talks about principalities and powers, what's he talking about? He's talking about the power of Satan.
 - He said, in [Ephesians 6](#), "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers" ([Ephesians 6:12](#)).
- The devil thought that Calvary was his defining moment. And how right he was. But he looked at the cross as a moment of defeat, where Jesus would be destroyed once and for all.
- But in giving of His life on the cross, Jesus destroyed Satan and his plan forever.
 - *"Forasmuch then as the children"—that's us—"are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself"—that's Jesus—"... took part of the same;"—He became flesh and blood. Now, watch this—"that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil"* ([Hebrews 2:14](#)).
- Jesus destroyed him on the cross. The word *destroyed* is a Greek word; it means "to make of none effect." It doesn't mean he's obliterated; it means he's wiped out; he's put out of business. You don't have to obey the devil anymore.
 - Revelation 12:11 - *"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb"*.

5. The Conquest of Death

- *"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."*
- It was death that was crucified that day, because Jesus was paying the penalty of death.
- As the crowd stood there that day, all they could see was Jesus dying on the cross. But what they could not see was that,
 - Sin was dead,
 - Law, you're dead.
 - Old world, you're crucified.
 - The flesh, you're crucified.
 - Satan, you're put out of business.
 - And, death, you now longer have the victory. Jesus lives & because He lives, so shall we. That's what He did on the cross. Glory to God! Praise His name!

➤ So in conclusion, what does this all mean for us?

- You & I don't have to be a slave to sin. We don't have to be condemned by the law. We don't have to be conformed by this world. We don't have to be motivated by the flesh. We don't have to be bullied by the devil, and we don't have to be intimidated by death, because of Jesus.
- Now, let me ask you a question: Is there some sin that is haunting you? You've already asked God to forgive you, but you still are dealing with the guilt of sin? Is there some law that is condemning you, and you're saying, "Oh, I'm just not living up to the holy law?" Is there some worldly attraction that's pulling at you? Is there some fleshly lust that's working on you? Is there some devilish power that is controlling you? Is there some fear of death that is bothering you?
- Now, here's what we're going to do: Take out this card. I want you to think of some of these things here, and I want you to look up there. And, maybe there's sin up there; maybe there is the power of Satan up there, death, or the flesh, or the world. And, you've been wrestling with these things, and you say, "Very frankly, Pastor, there are some things I'd like to put in the grave of God's forgetfulness. Because Jesus nailed these things to the cross, I want to nail them to the cross."
 - I want you to write some things that you'd just like to nail to the cross. I mean, is there something, you say, "I'm finished with that; I'm confessing that sin; I'm putting it under the

blood; I'm no longer going to be intimidated by a guilty conscience because of one of the commandments that I've failed to keep; I'm not going to let the devil horse me around about this thing anymore; or, I'm not going to give into the flesh"? But, through the power of the cross, I am telling you, when you depend upon what Jesus did upon that cross, you're going to find incredible power surging through you to live this way.

- Now, we're going to take just a few moments, and I want you to get out a pen. I don't want you to sign your name to it. It's none of my business; it's none of anybody's business. But, I want you to just write some things down there. If you're embarrassed to write them down, don't even write them. Write them in invisible ink—God knows your heart. We're not trying to get some record here. This is between you and God—that's the reason why I made this thing—we made it—where you can just fold it.

And, here's what we're going to do: Listen, we're going to write on these some things that we're done with this year, some things that we're saying, by God's grace, are nailed to His cross. And then, we're going to fold them—nobody's going to sign them—and you're going to get up, as you wish, and come down here, and just lay them on the platform; and, we're going to pick them up, and nail them to the cross, and just say *whack!* That's it. Praise God! That's it. I mean, devil—*whack!*—that's it. World—*whack!*—that's it. Whatever it is that's pulling at you, working at you. Not a one of us here, not a one, especially the guy speaking, who doesn't need a fresh start. Something we're going to nail to this cross. And, the only reason we can do it is because He's already done it. All we're doing is just saying *amen*.

Now, does everybody have to come forward? Certainly not. You may not want to. Nobody's going to look at you, and say, "Why didn't you do it?" But, I believe many of us are going to, and we're just going to leave this building with these things nailed to the cross; and then, we're going to have the Lord's Supper. All right? So, let's just take a few moments; and, you, in your own privacy, do as you wish. Jot something down. If you don't want to jot it down, but just say, "Lord, You know"—you're afraid your neighbor's going to look over on your page... "I don't want him to see what I'm writing down here. I don't want her to see. I sure don't want my wife to see"—oh, you're missing the spirit of this whole thing! Just each person keep your eyes on your own notes, but just write down something; and, I'm going to write down something. You say, "Pastor, I sure would like to know what you're writing down." I'm not going to tell you; Jesus knows. But, thank God, it's nailed to His cross.