

“The Power Of The Cross”
Colossians 2:13-15

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To Colossians 2:
 - Where The Apostle Paul:
 - Has Just Been Reminding The Colossian Church:
 - As Well As Us:
 - That Only Jesus Christ Can Change Our Hearts!
 - And That - It Is Only Through:
 - 2:12 - “Faith In The Operation Of God” That:
 - You Can Be United With Christ:
 - So That:
 - His Death Becomes Your Death!
 - His Burial Becomes Your Burial!
 - His Resurrection Becomes Your Resurrection!

2. Well - In The Verses We Come To This Morning:
 - Paul Takes Us:
 - “Behind The Scenes” - To Show:
 - How This New Life In Christ:
 - Is Even Made Possible!
 - 2:13-15 - “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; / 14 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; / 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it!”
 - In Verse 13 - Paul Wants To Remind You:
 - That If You Are A Christian:
 - You Have Also Been Quickened With Christ!

3. This Spiritual Quickening:
 - Describes The Moment When:
 - You Are Given New Life In Christ!
 - It's Like What Happened Back In Genesis:
 - When God First Created Man!
 - Genesis 2:7 - “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul!”
 - But What Happened To That New “Living Soul?”
 - Just A Chapter Later - Both Adam & Eve:
 - Are Tempted By The Devil:
 - And Sin - By Disobeying The Clear Command Of God!
 - And - As A Result:
 - Paul Tells Us In Romans 5:12 - “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned!”

4. And This Explains Why:
 - There Needed To Be Another Quickening!
 - Another Breath Of God:
 - To Bring Spiritual Life:
 - Into Your Own Dead Soul!
 - It Was Because:
 - 2:13 - “You” – Were:
 - “Dead In Your Sins And The Uncircumcision Of Your Flesh!”
 - You Needed Life - And Others Still Need Life:
 - Because You Were Spiritually Dead!
 - This Describes Your Condition Apart From Christ!
 - You Were Dead:
 - In The Practice Of Sin!
 - As It Says In Isaiah 53:6:
 - “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way!”

- Every Single One Of Us:
 - Has Disobeyed:
 - The Clear Commands Of God!
- And Like Adam & Like Eve:
 - You Deserve His Judgment:
 - And Death!
- And So - Being Spiritually Dead:
 - And Separated From God In Your Heart:
 - The Only Thing Left Was Your Own Physical Death & Eternal Separation From God!
- But Also:
- You Were Dead:
 - In The Principle Of Sin!
 - That Is - "The Uncircumcision Of Our Flesh!"
 - You See - The Reason Why You Disobeyed God Is Because:
 - Of The Depth Of Your Depravity!
 - In Isaiah 1:6 The Lord Says - "From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment!"
 - This Does Not Describe Your Body! This Describes Your Soul - Apart From Christ!
 - Rotting & Corrupt & Dead!

5. But - What Did God Do For You:

- When You Believed In Jesus Christ As Your Savior From Sin?
 - 2:13 - "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him!"
 - He Gave You New Life!
 - The Spark Of His Life Revived Your Dead Soul!
 - And He Made You Into A New Creation!
- But - How Could God Do This?
 - How Could God:
 - In The Words Of Romans 3:6 - Be Both "Just & The Justifier Of Him Which Believeth In Jesus?"
 - This Is What We Find In The Rest Of Our Verses This Morning!
- You See:
 - It Is The Very Death Of Christ On The Cross:
 - That Paved The Way For Your Life:
 - In Christ!
 - And - Without His Death:
 - There Could Be No Hope:
 - For Life!
 - After All:
 - Jesus Himself Said In John 11:25 - "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live!"
- So - The Cross Of Christ:
 - Made Your Life In Christ Possible Through:

1. **Remission From Your Crimes!**

- 2:13b - "Having forgiven you all trespasses!"
 - In Order To Be Quickened By God:
 - And Be Given New Life:
 - You & I Needed:
 - Remission & Forgiveness Of Our Crimes & Sins Against God!
 - And This Is What God Himself Provided:
 - Through The Death Of Christ On The Cross!
 - He Gave You:
- A Pardon That Is Free!
 - The Word For Forgiveness Here In This Verse:
 - Describes The Free Gift:

- Of God's Grace!
 - It Is Not Something You Deserve!
 - It Is Not Something You Earn!
 - It Is Something That God Offers & Provides:
 - Because Of His Own Gracious Nature!
- Jesus Used The Same Word:
 - In Luke 7:41-42 - When He Told The Story Of - "A certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. / And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both!"
- There Was Nothing You & I:
 - Could Pay To Eliminate:
 - The Debt Of Sin We Owed!
 - But When Jesus Died On The Cross - His Payment Was Enough - So That God Could Freely Offer You Forgiveness Through Faith In Christ! He Also Gave You:
- A Pardon That Is Full!
 - "All" Your "Trespasses" Are Forgiven!
 - Past, Present, And Future!
 - Sins Of Commission & Omission!
 - Presumptuous Sins & Sins Of Ignorance!
 - And So:
 - The Chains Of Your Sins:
 - That Were Keeping You In The Dungeon Of Death:
 - Have Been Broken - Releasing You To Life - Through Faith In The Power Of The Cross Of Christ!
 - And He Also Provided:
- A Pardon That Is Felt!
 - The Word "You" Here In 2:13 Is Probably Best Translated:
 - "Us" - Because Paul Includes Himself:
 - In This Remission! This Forgiveness!
 - It Was Something Very Personal To Him:
 - And Something He Would Never Forget!
 - In 1 Timothy 1:15 - Paul Recalled How - "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief!"
 - Paul Never Got Over:
 - The Forgiveness Of His Sins!
- And Neither Should You!
 - Because Your Forgiveness & Pardon:
 - Came At A Great Cost!
 - It Was Through - "The Precious Blood Of Christ!"
 - And Because Of This:
 - The Remission Of Your Crimes:
 - Against God - Made It Possible:
 - For You To Be Quickened & Given New Life In Jesus Christ!
- Have You Received:
 - This Gracious Gift?
 - Without A Full Remission:
 - From Your Crimes:
 - You Will Still Remain Dead In Your Trespasses & Sins!
 - But When You Believe In:
 - The Power Of Christ & His Cross:
 - To Bring You Complete Forgiveness:
 - You Will Be "Quickened Together With Him!"
 - And Given New & Eternal Life!
- But - We Also See That The Cross Of Christ:
 - Made Your Life In Christ Possible Through:

2. Restoration With Your Creator!

- 2:14 - "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!"
 - In Order To Be Quickened By God:
 - And Be Given New Life:
 - You & I Needed:
 - Our Relationship With God Restored!
 - And This Is What God Himself Provided:
 - Through The Death Of Christ On The Cross!
 - Because Of The Cross:
- Your Charges Are Dropped!
 - This Is What Paul Describes First:
 - In This Verse - It Is The - "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us!"
 - The "Ordinances" Here:
 - Are The Commandments Of God!
 - And Especially His Moral Law - Which You Find In His Ten Commandments!
 - God Has Established:
 - Certain Boundaries:
 - Around His Creation - That Reflect His Own Nature Of Holiness & Goodness!
 - And Whenever You & I:
 - Go Out Of Those Bounds:
 - It Is Sin!
 - And We Have Gone "Out Of Those Bounds" A Lot! Just Go Through A Few Of Those Commandments, And You Will See!
 - But - When You & I Break God's Law - It Is Not Something He Can Overlook! He Is Holy & Just!
 - And So - He Has Recorded Those Crimes:
 - With His Own Hands!
 - The "Handwriting" Here:
 - Is God's Own Record Of The Indictments & Charges:
 - Against Us!
 - In Revelation 20:12 - John Writes - "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works!"
 - These "Handwritings" Are The Same Books That God Will Open To Judge The Whole World Of Their Sins Against Him!
 - And These Charges:
 - Are Not Unfounded Charges!
 - They Are Real & Clear & Accurate!
 - After All - God Knows & Sees All! There Is No Hiding From Him!
 - Hebrews 4:13 - "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do!"
 - But - Because Of The Cross Of Christ:
 - What Can God Do With All Your Charges?
 - He Can "Blot" Them All Out!
 - 2:14 - "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us!"
 - They Didn't Have Erasers Back Then:
 - So - They Did The Next Best Thing:
 - They Scribbled Things Out!
 - This Is What God Does With Your Charges When You Trust In Christ!
 - This Is Why You Can Sing From Your Heart:
 - What a wondrous message in God's Word!
 - My sins are blotted out, I know!
 - If I trust in His redeeming blood,
 - My sins are blotted out, I know!
 - They are buried in the depths of the deepest sea:
 - My sins are blotted out, I know!
 - And Now - Your Relationship With God:

- Can Be Fully & Completely:
 - Restored!
 - But Even More:
- Your Condemnation Is Satisfied!
 - 2:14b - "Which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross!"
 - Paul Takes His Illustration Even Further:
 - To Describe The Destruction Of The Very Paper Your Charges Were Written On!
 - **IE:** So - Your Charges Weren't Just Blotted Out - The Paper / Book Was Torn Up & Destroyed! Noone - Not Even The Devil, That Old Accuser Of The Brethren, Can Ever Bring Them Up Again!
 - And So - The Sentence That You Deserved:
 - Was Rendered - Not Against You:
 - But Against Your Sins & Your Charges:
 - And Were Nailed With Jesus To His Cross!
 - And Jesus Paid The Penalty:
 - Completely Through His Death!
 - And Your Condemnation Was Satisfied & Paid In Full!
- And Because Of This:
 - The Restoration With Your Creator:
 - Was Made Possible!
 - Your Charges & Your Condemnation Were Taken "Out Of The Way!"
 - And God Could Quicken You & Give You New Life In Jesus Christ!
- Have You Received:
 - This Gracious Gift?
 - Without A Full Restoration:
 - With Your Creator:
 - You Will Still Remain Dead In Your Trespasses & The Uncircumcision Of Your Flesh!
 - But When You Believe In:
 - The Power Of Christ & His Cross:
 - To Bring You Complete Restoration:
 - You Will Be "Quickened Together With Him!"
 - And Given New & Eternal Life!
- But - We Also See That The Cross Of Christ:
 - Made Your Life In Christ Possible Through:
- 3. Release From Your Captors!**
 - 2:15 - "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."
 - In Order To Be Quickened By God:
 - And Be Given New Life:
 - You & I Also Needed:
 - To Be Released From The Captivity Of Sin & The Devil!
 - And This Is What God Himself Provided:
 - Through The Death Of Christ On The Cross!
 - Because Of The Cross:
 - Our Captors Are Completely Disarmed!
 - This Is What Jesus Did To Those:
 - "Principalities And Powers!"
 - Those Fallen Spiritual Beings Who Are Opposed To God And His Work In This World!
 - This Is The Third Time In Colossians These Powerful Beings Are Mentioned!
 - And They Are Featured So Prominently In Colossians:
 - Because They Were Featured So Prominently:
 - In The False Teaching That Was Infiltrating The Church!
 - They Were Being Taught That These Spiritual Beings Were The Only Way To God! "Middle Men!"
 - But - In Reality - They Were Opposed To God:
 - And Got In The Way Of Their Relationship:
 - With God! They Weren't Good! They Were Evil!

- And So - When Jesus Died On The Cross - He “Spoiled” Them!
- This Is A Vivid Word:
 - To Describe What A Triumphant General:
 - Would Often Do To His Enemies!
 - He Would Strip Them & Disarm Them & Defrock Them Of Everything They Took Pride In!
- You See - The Devil - Along With:
 - His “Principalities & Powers” - Thought Death:
 - Was Their Domain!
 - But When Jesus Took Death By Storm - And Broke The Power Of Death By His Resurrection - He Stripped Them Of Any Power They Thought They Had!
- This Is What We Find In;
 - Hebrews 2:14-15 - “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; / And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage!”
- And This Is What Jesus Came To Do For You!
 - To Deliver You From:
 - The Captivity Of Death & The Devil!
 - But Also - Because Of The Cross:
- Our Captors Are Completely Displayed!
 - For Who & What They Really Are!
 - 2:15b - “He made a shew of them openly!”
 - Again - Like A Roman General Would Do With His Enemies - He Would Parade Them Through The Streets Of Rome - As A Public Spectacle & To Expose Them As Impotent & Insignificant!
 - This Is What The Cross Of Christ:
 - Does To Our Captors!
 - It Exposes Them As Weak & Beggarly:
 - Before Almighty God!
 - And It Demonstrates:
 - The Greatness Of God And:
 - His Power!
 - His Wisdom!
 - His Grace!
 - And His Love!
 - And This Is What Jesus Came To Do For You!
 - To Deliver You From:
 - The Captivity Of Death & The Devil!
 - But Also - Through The Cross:
- Our Captors Are Completely Defeated!
 - 2:15c - “Triumphing over them in it!”
 - In The Cross!
 - ***The Cross Is The Triumph Of Christ!***
 - It Is Proof That All The Powers Of Darkness:
 - Have Been Vanquished!
 - The Victory Of Jesus:
 - Is A Complete Victory!
 - A Comprehensive Victory!
 - And One That Can Be Celebrated By All Who Have Been:
 - Released From Their Captivity To Sin & Death & The Devil!
- And Because Of The Cross Of Christ:
 - This Release From Your Captors:
 - Was Made Possible!
 - The Powerful Forces That Held You Under Their Spell:
 - Have Been Completely Disarmed, Disgraced, And Defeated!
 - So That God Could Quicken You & Give You New Life In Jesus Christ!

- Have You Received:
 - This Gracious Gift?
 - Without A Full Release:
 - From Your Captivity:
 - You Will Remain In The Chains Of Your Sin & Death!
 - But When You Believe In:
 - The Power Of Christ & His Cross:
 - To Bring You Complete Release:
 - You Will Be “Quickened Together With Him!”
 - And Given New & Eternal Life!

Conclusion:

1. You See - It Was Only Through:
 - The Death Of Christ:
 - On The Cross - That:
 - You Could Receive:
 - The Life Of Christ!
2. Because:
 - Only The Cross Of Christ:
 - Could Make Possible:
 - The Complete Remission:
 - From Your Crimes:
 - Against God!
 - Only The Cross Of Christ:
 - Could Make Possible:
 - The Complete Restoration:
 - With Your Creator!
 - And:
 - Only The Cross Of Christ:
 - Could Make Possible:
 - The Complete Release:
 - From Your Captors!
 - 3. So That Now:
 - You Can Live In & Through:
 - Christ!
 - Fully! And Freely!
 - As We Will See Next Week!
 - But Never Forget:
 - The Power Of The Cross:
 - To Bring You Life!
 - So That Now - You Are Now “Quickened Together With Him!”

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