

**Mark 15:38-41 — “ACCESS GRANTED! What Christ’s Cross Does”**

The passive-voice construction “the curtain of the temple **was** torn” (Matthew 27:51) implies that God himself tore the veil. This is confirmed by description of the damage: “from top to bottom.” Note also the extent: “in two.” This singular cultic artifact is now irreparably damaged — it can no longer perform the function for which it was intended. This means that there is no longer a physical barrier to God, suggesting that the theological necessity of it is thereby removed. (Daniel Gurtner)

The Tearing of the Veil bespeaks a great deal of comfort to all believing Christians, for it signifies the consecrating and laying open to us of a new and living way into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. (Matthew Henry)

See him there upon the cross Now no longer breathing  
Dust that formed the watching crowds Takes the blood of Jesus  
Feel the earth is shaking now See the veil is split in two  
And he stood before the wrath of God Shielding sinners with his blood  
(CityAlight “Jerusalem”)

**The work of Christ on the cross brings:**

- ACCESS to God - Ephesians 2:18
- CONFIDENCE to come to God - Hebrews 4.16
- BOLDNESS to God - Ephesians 3.12
- INTRODUCTION to come to God - Romans 5.2
- ASSISTANCE from God - Hebrews 2.18

*Background to Mark 15:38ff*

- **Sunday** - day of Messianic Presentation
- **Monday** - day of Messianic Power
- **Tuesday** - day of Messianic Proclamation
- *Wednesday* - silent/quiet day of prep.
- **Thursday** - day of Messianic Preparation
- **Friday** - day of Messianic ***Perfection***
- *Saturday* - in the grave
- **Sunday** - day of Messianic Pronouncement

**THESIS** — in Mark 15, when Christ died, our text shows ***that access is granted to God!*** What does **Christ's cross bring?** We'll see 3 simple affirmations.

1. God is **available!** (the veil) >> **access.**
2. Grace is **sufficient!** (the centurion) >> **affirmation.**
3. Believers are **ministers!** (the women) >> **acceptance.**

**I. GOD IS AVAILABLE! (*access*) (v.38)**

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The veil/curtain was: TALL, THICK, WIDE,  
BARRIER, REMINDER, IMPASSIBLE!

**Mind-blowing, amazing, unchanging TRUTHS:**

1. You have access to God.
2. Your sins no longer separate you.
3. Old Covenant is complete & done.
4. Christ alone is priest and mediator.
5. Jesus was torn for your sake.
6. It was a work of God alone
7. Jesus continues as priest for us (entered the heavenly sanctuary for us: Heb 6.19-20; 9.23-24; 10.12-14)
8. Jesus did once what no ongoing sacrifices could ever do.

**II. GRACE IS SUFFICIENT! (*affirmation*) (v.39)**

Truly he was the **Son of God!**

***The Centurion was \*affected\* by what he saw and heard of Christ dying on the cross:***

- He was qualified — he was a sinner.
- He was present - heard the Truth
- He saw Hope — listened to Christ's words
- He experienced darkness - supernatural miracle of wrath
- He simply believed — Truly this was the SON OF GOD

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**III. BELIEVERS ARE MINISTERS! (acceptance) (v.40-41)**

The veil is rent! Lo! Jesus stands Before the throne of grace;  
And clouds of incense from His hands Fill all that glorious place

His precious blood is sprinkled there, Before and on the throne;  
And His own wounds in heav'n declare His work on earth is done

'Tis finished!" on the cross He said, In agonies and blood;  
'Tis finished: now He lives to plead Before the face of God

'Tis finished!" Here our souls can rest, His work can never fail;  
By Him, our Sacrifice and Priest We enter through the veil  
— James Deck

**RESPONSIVE READING — Hebrews 10:11-25**

**11**Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;

**12**but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, **13**waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. **14**For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

**15**And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, **16**"THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM," He then says **17**"AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."

**18**Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.

**19**Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, **20**by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, **21**and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

**22**Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

**23**Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

**24**and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25**not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

**SONGS*****Power of the Cross***

Oh, to see the dawn Of the darkest day:  
 Christ on the road to Calvary.  
 Tried by sinful men, Torn and beaten, then  
 Nailed to a cross of wood.

**This, the pow'r of the cross:  
 Christ became sin for us;  
 Took the blame, bore the wrath—  
 We stand forgiven at the cross.**

Oh, to see the pain Written on Your face,  
 Bearing the awesome weight of sin.  
 Ev'ry bitter thought, Ev'ry evil deed  
 Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees; Now the ground beneath  
 Quakes as its Maker bows His head.  
 Curtain torn in two, Dead are raised to life;  
 "Finished!" the vict'ry cry.

Oh, to see my name Written in the wounds,  
 For through Your suffering I am free.  
 Death is crushed to death; Life is mine to live,  
 Won through Your selfless love.

**This, the pow'r of the cross:  
 Son of God—slain for us.  
 What a love! What a cost!  
 We stand forgiven at the cross.**

**The rending of the veil** proclaimed the termination and passing away of the ceremonial law. It was a sign that the old dispensation of sacrifices and ordinances was no longer needed. Its work was done. Its occupation was gone, from the moment that Christ died. There was no more need of an earthly high priest, and a mercy seat, and a sprinkling of blood, and an offering up of incense, and a day of atonement. The true High Priest had at length appeared. The true Lamb of God had been slain. The true mercy seat was at length revealed. The figures and shadows were no longer needed. May we all remember this! That rending of the veil proclaimed the opening of the way of salvation to all mankind. The way into the presence of God was unknown to the Gentile, and only seen dimly by the Jew, until Christ died. But Christ having now offered up a perfect sacrifice, and obtained eternal redemption, the darkness and mystery were to pass away. All were to be invited now to draw near to God with boldness, and approach Him with confidence, by faith in Jesus. A door was thrown open, and a way of life set before the whole world. May we all remember this! (J.C. Ryle)

***My Hope is Built on Nothing Less***

1 My hope is built on nothing less  
 than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
 but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:  
 all other ground is sinking sand;  
 all other ground is sinking sand.**

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,  
 I rest on his unchanging grace;  
 in every high and stormy gale,  
 my anchor holds within the veil.

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood,  
 support me in the whelming flood;  
 when all around my soul gives way,  
 he then is all my hope and stay.

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
 O may I then in him be found:  
 dressed in his righteousness alone,  
 faultless to stand before the throne.