

## THE WORD OF THE CROSS

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God (1 Cor. 1:18).

Any lifestyle that is not word of the cross is bondage and Jesus delivers from that. Only the cross has power over indulgence of the flesh, sin in the flesh. If you are hungering and thirsting for more, you are in some way off the word of the cross because he who comes to Jesus never hungers and he who believes in Jesus never thirsts (John 6:35).

What follows is the word of the cross:

- A. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1). Then God said, "Let us make man in our own image...(Gen. 1:26). In the beginning was the Word (Jesus) and the Word was with God and the Word was God...All things were made through Him (John 1:1,3). We are created beings made in the image of God.
- B. Adam was the first man. He was put in the Garden of Eden. He was told of every tree of the garden you may freely eat but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat (in Gen. 2:16-17). Adam sinned by eating of that tree. Death spread to all, all born of Adam were made sinners having inherent sin in the flesh (Rom. 5:12,19;7:20)
- C. God revealed His will to people in the form of law (legalism), the law of Moses (Ex. 20:1-17). A person was right before God by doing what the

law said (called a work of the law). When someone broke the law there was sacrifice to cover the sin. There was curse for not keeping the law, blessing for keeping it (Deut. 28). However, the law method failed due to sin in the flesh getting stirred up by the law, resulting in condemnation, bondage (Rom. 7:7-11, 24)

- D. Jesus, the Son of God, came born of a virgin, so not born of Adam. Lived a sinless life, was crucified to bear our sin, was raised from the dead, exalted to the highest position possible above all except God, and sent His Holy Spirit to indwell and empower us to live life victoriously, not by attempting law keeping (legalism), but with sins borne, led walking by the Spirit of the Living God indwelling us...all by faith in Jesus, His name, His blood sacrifice for us, walking by faith. (1 Pet. 2:24) What it means that Jesus bore our sin is that the sin problem is eradicated, our sins are purged, we can live condemnation free living **for** righteousness, not merely living not to sin, we are made whole, born again, a new creation, free to serve the living God in the liberty of walking by faith led by the Holy Spirit, living a holy life, having put off the old man of sin and putting on the new man, holy.
- E. Only the cross has victory over the flesh, sin in the flesh, indulgence of the flesh (Col. 2:14-15,23).
- F. You partake of this victory won for you by Jesus by faith instead of works, so you are so free of condemnation's power over you by it saying you

are not doing enough or not good enough; that condemning power is stripped. You are made right by faith. To partake you believe and confess that Jesus is the Christ, the sin bearing resurrected Son of the living God, that God raised him from the dead, that Jesus is Lord, not you (Rom. 10:9-10). To identify with Christ's death burial and resurrection you are to be baptized (by immersion in water) in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rising from baptisms waters walking in newness of life (Rom. 6, Matt. 28:19-20)

Nothing else can deliver, save, transform, sustain you through all of life and take you to be with God in heaven after death. To reject God's love of sending his Son for Him to do the only thing that could be done to save us from sin, means eternal death in hell in the hereafter and hell on earth now.

As I have heard it said you cannot think up ways of being kinder than God. Repenting, believing, being transformed, living for Jesus is ultimate kindness.

For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).