

## The Work of the Cross: By His Doing I Corinthians 1:30

The cross is nothing if not personal - "by His doing" (I Cor 11:30). It is so much more than a legal or forensic operation. So much more than a bookkeeping transaction in the heavenly records. The aim of the cross is entirely personal: two parties coming together as one. A.K.A. "fellowship" - sharing life in common. "I in you, and you in Me"... two moving together as one!

The work of the Cross is God offering us an exchange of Life (II Cor 5:21). Not so much a "changed" life - not "me" being reformed or repaired, but "me" being replaced. Through the work of the cross God kills one life and creates another. The old man and all its crookedness is not straightened out, it is crossed out and a new man comes into being. The work of the cross has a killing and an enlivening function. A "dis-union" before union. Our new life doesn't come out of the old life, but rather, out of the death of the old life. We do not cease to be, but we do cease to be what we once were (II Cor 5:17). A Christ-less, cross-less self is crucified. A Christ-in, crossified life is raised. A nature from out of this world is placed in us (I Jo 3:1; 4:4-6; II Pet 1:3,4) and we are joined to all we need for life and godliness as God intended it to be.

The work of the cross offers an exchange: condemned life for justified life (Ro 5:18; 8:1). Every debt, every claim of the law against us has been cancelled out by Christ's death on the cross. His justified, risen life is graced to us in full - to condemn us, God would have to condemn the life of His Son in us - and that is never going to happen!

The work of the cross offers an exchange: Adam-life for Christ-life (Ro 5:12-21; I Cor 15:21-22). Adam life - sinful, hostile, separated from God - can never stand before God. (It is so bad even God can't fix it!) It is taken to Christ's cross (in Himself) and is slain and buried. We are joined to Christ's life - indivisibly one with God. No Adam/Christ mixture, no Adam "re-do", but a new creation. I am forever more in Christ and He is in me!

The work of the cross offers an exchange: Sinful life for Righteous life (II Cor 5:21; Heb 7:26; 9:26). All our sins - past, present, future - forgiven (Eph 1:7; Col 2:13) by the cross. The nature of sin is terminated by the work of the cross. God's very righteous disposition is deposited in our human spirits. Never to be sinners again, we are now saints of the Most High God.

All "by His doing" (I Cor 1:30) in the work of the cross. All freely received by faith. "A perfect sacrifice by a Perfect Person able to perfect some very imperfect people." (Heb 10:14. The Message). Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

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## Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

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# GREETINGS

From time to time we all run into a quote, a poem, a statement that stops us in our tracks, rocks us on our heels, and causes us to stop and reconsider something.

In late 2014 I ran across a John Wesley poem that did so for me. We made extensive use of it in our 2015 Florida retreat - quoting it together more than once. I hope and pray it has a similar impact upon you this month.

Frames and feelings fluctuate,  
These can ne'er thy source be!  
Learn thyself in Christ to see:  
Than be feelings what they will,  
Jesus is thy Savior still!

Blessings and joy as you see yourself in Christ  
in all of life!






*Steve*

# CALENDAR

## JUNE

3-7	Baton Rouge, LA (225-769-8844)
9	Alachua Study
14,21,28	CCF

## *PRAISE and PRAYER*

-  The killing & enlivening work of the cross
-  The exchanged life in Christ
-  Thirty five years of marriage
-  CCF pastor search
-  Conferences and retreats