

Speaker : Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Title : The Power of the Cross
Text : 1 Corinthians 1:18

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18)

Introduction

Our weaknesses, failures and defeats are due to our lack of appreciation, faith and confidence in the cross of Jesus Christ

- The Cross was the Father’s will

Jesus prayed, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done” (Luke 22:42)

- The Cross is at the heart of our faith for salvation.

“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22)

- You need to **appreciate** the Cross of Christ and the cross you carry
- Have **faith** in your cross
- Have **confidence** in your cross “cast your cares and not your confidence”
 - Joseph – the pit, slavery and imprisonment
 - Made him a better man
 - Taught him servant-hood attitude, administration, management and leadership
 - Moses – the desert experience, his failure in Egypt, as a shepherd
 - Made, taught and qualified him to be the deliverer of Israel from Egypt
 - Daniel – His captivity
- Appreciate the Cross of Jesus Christ - *for what it has done for you*
- Appreciate your cross!!
- To the standard and in the eyes of the world – it is shame, despised, abhorred by the world.

- The Cross is the only boast we have as Christians

“But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14)

- Paul had plenty to boast about.
 - He was a Jew but a Roman Citizen
 - He was educated and from a famous family

- He was religious – a Pharisee

“though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. ⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead”
(Philippians 3:4-11)

What Kind of Power Does the Cross Have?

Three Facts:

1. The Cross provides eternal redemption by the forgiveness of sin

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption . 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission” (Hebrews 9:12, 22)

2. The Cross opens the door into the Presence of God

“14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:14, 16)

“19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water” (Hebrews 10:19-22)

- Moses requested God’s Presence to go with him to lead the people into the Promised Land

“13 Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.” 14 And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” 15 Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go

with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth” (Exodus 33:13-16)

To have God’s Presence is the evidence we have found grace with God.

- God’s Presence gives us Joy

“You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence” (Acts 2:28)

“You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11)

3. The Cross will help you overcome Satan and his demons

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death” (Revelation 12:11)

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7)

Appreciate, have confidence and faith in the work of the cross

- Satan cannot condemn you.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:1)

- We receive healing because of the Cross

“who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed” (1 Peter 2:24)

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5)

Conclusion

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8)

- Jesus demonstrated healing power, forgiveness, deliverance and the power to bless!
- You are chosen of God to receive God’s blessings through the Cross of Jesus Christ.

“elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:2)