

## THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT THE CROSS

The song-writer wrote, "Be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and MAKE ME PURE, Newer hymnals have tried to improve on August Toplady's original and have changed it to, "save me from its guilt and power". But he had it right in the first place. The absolute necessity for experiencing the second part of that statement (Heb. 12:14), but tragic failure in many cases to do so, is due, I believe, to a faulty analysis of how man's personality functions and a less-than-accurate presentation of the so-called two-nature of the believer theory which at its root involves the **WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT THE CROSS**. Because of this many believers are left with the impression that when they were born again they, in their total human-ness, WERE NOT CHANGED - it was just that a new nature had been added to them endeavoring to dominate their personality - and often being unsuccessful because of their being still totally bad ! I would like to suggest that pardon alone does not change what a man IS! And I ask, "Can a just judge release a man who is still a criminal reprobate with no capacity to stop his crime (sinning)? Hardly !! And God has found a righteous way to deal with the believer's need for holiness and set him free. (Rom. 6:7,17,18)

A review of several key Bible terms and their careful definitions are needed before we look at how He did this:

- (1) Old Man. (Rom. 6:6) This is "I" a responsible person with all the consequences of being "in Adam" - including the necessity of following the motivating spirit that energizes him. Ephes. 2:2
- (2) The Flesh. This is my total human nature in its fallen-ness.
  - (a) Note: This is a **condition** not an **entity!** (b)  
Synonyms for this term are: ((D) Self  
((2)) Old Nature - we use this term though it is not a Biblical one.
- (3) New Man. This is the man I am "in Christ" - with the energizing force of Ephes. 2:2 broken and the New Man invested with the dynamic presence of a living Christ who "lives in me". Gal. 2:20
- (4) Sin. When used in the singular refers to that sin-principle that remains in the believer. (Rom. 7:21,23). It is no longer "T" but sin that dwells in me that is the problem.

Clarifying these terms and coming to understand their meaning is absolutely vital to experiencing what it means to "walk in the Spirit" (Gal.5:16) which, in turn, is the only way to "bear much fruit"(John 15:8; Gal.5:22,23) which, in turn, IS THE ONLY WAY TO HAVE A LIFE THAT GLORIFIES GOD! If you will look carefully at these definitions you will discover that, even though a sin-principle remains in the believer, he, in fact **has a new identity** and his basic nature is NEW. He is **no longer a SINNER** who may at times do something wonderful and good, but rather, he is a SAINT who at times may forget his proper identity or, in willful disobedience displeases the Lord.

That which effects this change is the WHOLE TRUTH OF THE CROSS -appropriated by faith: two sides to the message; the first giving the believer peace and joy in the knowledge of **sins forgiven**, the other giving **deliverance** over the sin-principle.

## OUTLINE

- I. The Whole Truth About What The Cross Accomplished For The Believer.
  - A. Rom. 3:24-26 God devised a plan whereby he could be perfectly righteous while declaring the guilty sinner to be perfectly righteous in His sight -i.e. Justifying him!
  - B. Rom. 6:6 God devised,as a further part of His plan, a way to deal with the sinner, himself, so that he, the sinner, is declared righteous concerning what he WAS as well as for what he DID! (Rom. 6:7)
    1. He did this on the principle of Federal Headship.  
Rom. 5:12
      - a. In Him (Christ) one's whole history in Adam is ended. Rom. 8:9;7:5; II Cor. 5:14)
    2. Knowing this as a fact also breaks the believer's absolute necessity of obeying his former power-source. (Ephes.2:2) I believe it was Augustine who first used the phrase: "God does not make me so that I am NOT ABLE to sin, but He does make it so that I am ABLE NOT TO SIN!!

2. Cont'd.

- a. The power of the energizing spirit, inherited from Adam **HAS BEEN BROKEN!** Rom.6:6,17,18; Rom. 7:5,6; 8:2; Col. 1:13; Gal.5:17.

3. Knowing this as a fact also releases me from the Law and **ALL LEGAL EFFORT!**

- a. Although you are "in Christ" it is possible to live as though still "in Adam" (I Cor. 3:3)

- (1) Adam's race is probationary.
- (2) Adam's life is "flesh" John 3:6
- (3) The flesh is my total human-ness in its fallen-ness (Remember ?)
- (4) To do something in the energy of the flesh is to think of yourself as still in Adam and respond accordingly with "I CAN"!!

- b. If I do this I still have not learned the lesson the Law meant to teach.

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

I. The Law was addressed to man in his fallen-ness to uncover to him his total helplessness. Rom. 8:3; 3:19,20; 8:7

II. Being "in Christ" I am free from the Law. Rom.8:9; 7:5;6:14

III. Being "in Christ" I am NOT without Law. I Cor. 9:21; Rom. 7:4; Gal.6:2

C. Clearing the way legally like this for full justification before a Holy God makes it possible for God to invest me as a New Man with a **NEW SOURCE OF POWER AND STRENGTH** thru Christ living in me!

. This Whole Truth, Believing ly Accepted Is The Biblical Way To Deal With the "self life". Matt. 16:24; Luke 9:23

1. This, in the synoptic Gospels, is what is meant by "taking up ones cross" - i.e. by faith entering experientially into the **WHOLE TRUTH OF THE CROSS.**

2. Failure to do this leaves self still enthroned in the life - with a variety of troublesome results.

I. Activating This Whole Truth Is Whaf'Walking In The Spirit" Is All About!