

Spiritual Growth

Repairing & Rebuilding Firm Foundations in Christ

Session Three

Jesus and the Finished Work of the Cross

Opening Prayer

Objective:

- ❖ **Acknowledge** the completed work of Jesus.
- ❖ **Understand** that our past no longer controls or holds us.
- ❖ **See** that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is resident on the inside of us.
- ❖ **Recognize** the difference between the Law and Grace.
- ❖ **Desire** wholeness in Christ.

Significance of the Cross

Instructor's note: Ask a student to read aloud Colossians 1:20

Col 1:20: And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. (KJV)

When Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, His work took down the wall of separation between man and God. This wall of separation has been erected when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden and were sent out because of it. Their actions separated them from God. At that time God made a way for man to atone for his sins through animal sacrifice. The blood of the animal cleansed the sin of the people making them right with God. Well when Jesus shed His blood on that cross, His perfect sacrifice canceled the debt of sin for man once and for all. When we become born again, the blood of Jesus cleanses and makes us whole. We became reconciled back to God and now can boldly enter into the presence of God on our own.

Instructor's note: Ask a student to read aloud Colossians 2:14-15

Col 2:14-15: Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (KJV)

Instructor's note: Open discussion with the class

1) What does the cross represent to you?

2) Give one word that describes what Jesus did on the Cross?

Explain the Resurrection Power of Christ – There is no power greater ever exerted in the earth and this power resides on the inside of YOU! All of heaven is backing you up, there is nothing impossible to YOU if you will only believe and trust in God.

*Rom 6:5: For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also **in the likeness of his resurrection**: (KJV)*

Eph 1:19-21

and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. (NKJ)

What was extended to man when Jesus ascended to heaven and sat down at the right hand of the Father?

GRACE

What does Grace Mean?

**Compare Grace & the Law: The law is "I have to" and grace is "I want to!"
Grace is based on a relationship of love.**

Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (NKJ)

Instructor's Note: Ask someone in the class to share an example of how your past still affects you.

What happens to your past? Covered by the blood of Jesus and forgotten!

Let's look at what God thinks about your past...

Psalm 103:12: As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. (KJV)

Instructor's note: Ask class to write all their sins down on the Cross handout in their workbook, then cancel them out, rip out the page, wad it up and throw it into the garbage as a symbol of God's sea of forgetfulness.

Desire Wholeness in Christ – Nothing, no thing, you have done can separate you from the love of Christ!

Rom 8:35-39: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NIV)

The Finished Work of the Cross

Acknowledge the finished work of the cross. Jesus paid the price for every sin we will ever commit when He died for us on the cross. His shed blood was enough to atone for the sins of the world; both present time and all future generations to come. The work was complete when Jesus rose victoriously from the grave to take His place at the right hand of the Father. No longer would men and women have to live under the law, but a new way was made for us to enter in by the grace of God. The Word says that the

same resurrection power that was present when Jesus was raised from the dead is also resident inside each one of us. We will truly be free when we begin to fully understand the fullness of what Christ has actually done for us. We are no longer debtors, but free to live our lives separated from the shame and guilt of our past.

Closing Prayer