



The Wisdom And The Power Of The Cross Good Friday March 25, 2005

1 Corinthians 1:17-25

17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

The wisdom and the power of the crucified Christ (or The wisdom and the power of the cross).

Christ – the one who was crucified, buried and who rose again – this Christ is the revelation of the wisdom of God and the power of God.

What is the wisdom and the power of the cross? What is the wisdom and power that is revealed through the Christ who was crucified, buried and who rose up again?

Could there be any wisdom in :

Falsely accusing and condemning an innocent man to a cruel death by crucifixion?

Judas, Jesus' betrayer himself acknowledge that he had betrayed innocent blood.

Matthew 27:3-5

3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Pilate could find no fault in Him. Instead he gave in to popular demand instead of standing by justice and truth.

Luke 23:13-16

13 And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,

14 Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him:

15 No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.

16 I will therefore chastise him, and release him.

Luke 23:24

And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required.

Could there be any power in :



What seemed to be the crucifixion of a powerless man ?

Jesus offered no resistance, no defense during his capture and trial.

Matthew 27:12-14

12 And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

13 Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?

14 And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

1 Peter 2:22,23

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

His cry on the cross seemed to be one of despair and weakness:

Matthew 27:46

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

John 19:28

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

When He said "It is finished", was this a cry of abandonment and defeat ?

John 19:30

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

To the natural man there is no evidence of supernatural wisdom or supernatural power in seeing an innocent and just man being crucified on the cross!

So how do we discover the wisdom and the power of the cross?

Everything that took place was already according to the Scriptures:

Matthew 26:54-56

54 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

55 In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.

56 But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

So the Old Testament scriptures is a working out of God's wisdom and power that reached its "grand finale" in the cross.

Further, this wisdom and power has been revealed to us by the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:7-10

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.



10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

So the NT will therefore explain to us the depths of this wisdom and power that was demonstrated on the cross.

The Wisdom of the cross

The sin of the first Adam

In Genesis we see the sin of the first Adam. Adam lost his position as a son of God (Luke 3:38).

For by One man

Romans 5:12

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Through the disobedience of the first Adam, sin enters the world, and death through sin and passes on to the entire human race.

The second Adam

1 Corinthians 15:45,47

45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

Then comes the second or the last Adam, who is the Lord from heaven.

Becoming like unto the brethren

Hebrews 2:14,17

14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

The second Adam comes made like unto the brethren. He comes as one of the human race. Yet without sin.

For The Sins of The Whole World

1 John 2:2

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus then becomes the payment for the sins of the whole world.

The Just For The Unjust

1 Peter 3:18

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

He suffered for the sins of the whole world – doing this on our behalf. The just for the unjust. So that we could now be brought to God.

Tasting Death for Every Man

Hebrews 2:9

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

He tasted death for every man.

One Mediator

1 Timothy 2:5,6

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.



He became the mediator between God and man.

Demands of Justice Satisfied

Romans 3:23-26

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. He satisfied the demands of God's justice.

This is so unique. The same God – remains just by judging and condemning sin. And it is this same God, who then declares the sinner who believes in Jesus, as acquitted, pardoned, free from guilt! This is possible because of the cross.

This then is the wisdom of the cross. The sinless God came in the form of sinful man, yet living without sin, and allowed earthly injustice to be executed toward Him, so that heavens' demand of justice could be met, and many sons and daughters brought to glory.

The Power of the cross

In Genesis, satan gained control of the earth. He became the "god of this world".

Crushing of the serpents head

Genesis 3:15

However, right there in the Garden of Eden, God foretold the coming of the Seed of the woman who would crush the serpent's head.

Behind what seemed to be a powerless and pitiful death on the cross – in the spirit realm tremendous things were happening.

Disarming principalities and powers

Colossians 2:14,15

On the cross Jesus disarmed satan and all his demons of their power and sway over the human race.

When A Man Defeated Satan

Hebrews 2:14

Though His death, Jesus defeated the one who had the power of death, that is the devil.

Destroying The Old Man

Romans 6:6,14

On the cross the Old Man – the sin nature – was destroyed. People, those who came to believe in Jesus, could now walk free from the dominion of sin.

New Creatures with Divine Nature

2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 Peter 1:3,4

Because of His work on the cross, He could now impart the new creation life to people who believed in Him and make them partakers of the divine nature.

Authority on the earth

He could now invest His authority to His people on the earth – authority over the enemy who once oppressed them and held them captive. The enemy's territory was now infiltrated by men



and women who had authority to overthrow satan's works!

Abrahams Blessing

Galatians 3:13,14

Those whom satan oppressed now become blessed!

This then is the power of the cross.

Adams' race was so powerless, held captive to satan. the only One in this whole universe who could do something about this was God Himself. The all powerful God who alone could do something about satan's despotic sway on the earth became a man. He seemingly became one of satan's captives, although we know He was not a captive. And as a man He conquered and overthrew satan's dominion, liberating the entire human race. On the cross, He overthrew satan and all His demons. He destroyed the power of sin. He became a curse so as to extend Abraham's blessing to the whole world. And He now extends His victory and authority to every one who believes in Him!

To sum up

2 Corinthians 8:9 sums this up so well.

2 Corinthians 8:9

9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Truth for Personal Application

1 Corinthians 1:25

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

There are times when God invites us to be a part and walk in "the foolishness of God". Turning the other cheek, going the extra mile, giving in spite of your own need, serving others when you are hurting yourself, investing your time, money and life for the purposes of His Kingdom – may all seem like foolishness. Remember, when you are obeying God and walking in "the foolishness of God" – that very thing is wiser than the best wisdom of man. People will be surprised by the outcome. They will see a demonstration of the wisdom and the power of God!

Similarly, God instructs us to walk in "the weakness of God". Walking in humility, walking in meekness, submitting to one another, yielding even when you know you are in the right, becoming as a lamb led to slaughter, not repaying evil for evil, doing good to your enemies, etc. all these might make us look weak. We are participating in "the weakness of God". But remember that the weakness of God is stronger than the best power of men. People will be surprised by the outcome. They will see a demonstration of the wisdom and the power of God!