

ENEMIES OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST

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Pt. 1 - The Wisdom of God

As we consider the greatness of our Salvation and of the Life that we now have by the Grace of God, I want to emphasize that this is all by **THE CROSS**. God's Grace is shown to us by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God's Grace is not that we don't have to die. God's Grace is that He died not only FOR me, but AS me: He died the death I could not die to give me His Life. We were dead IN sin and could not be released from sin. His Grace brought us to a death that could. God's Eternal Plan to bring forth His Salvation and to bring a people unto Life in relationship to Himself has always been by means of the Cross of Christ. This is the Reality of our Salvation; so we must come to God's View of The Cross.

I Corinthians 1:18: *"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."* **I Corinthians 1:23:** *"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."* This is something that we have to settle in our hearts: Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. And as the Apostle Paul, if we really want to know the Lord and the power of His Life we have to determine to know nothing but Christ and the Cross. This is the way we not only come to receive New Life, Eternal Life: but this is the way that we are to live – remaining obedient to this Cross and allowing it to work in us continually. And on a personal note, the Lord has challenged me in regard to The Cross: when I murmur or complain, or try to make excuses, He "shoves" The Cross in my face and asks me – What have I not done? What more could I have done than what I have already accomplished by The Cross of Christ? And the answer is nothing more!

The Scripture talks about God working in us mightily—and He does: but we have to understand it will always be according to the Work of the Cross: death, burial and resurrection. This is not just a Bible teaching, not just a theological doctrine, but an inward working by His Spirit working mightily and continually in us – in death and burial, and then resurrection Life. The Cross is not a symbol we wear around our necks, but a Reality that we bear in our souls. **II Corinthians 4:10:** “*Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*” The Cross of Christ - the death and burial of Christ must work in you in order for you to experience His Life. We must understand that this is God’s Will, and God always remains faithful to this order. We say we love God, and want to do His Will, but we often fail to realize that the Cross is God’s Will, His wisdom. And in order for us to please God and do His Will, we have to experience the working of the Cross in our souls. And when I say that I am not just talking about the superficial forgiveness of sins to make us feel better, but the FULL working of the Cross in our hearts, taking away everything that is not Christ, so that all that He is would be made known in us. Other than that it is just words! And God knows the difference. This has to do with the condition of our hearts: hearts that will be obedient to the Mind and Plan of God that was fulfilled at the Cross.

God spoke to the nation of Israel through His prophets, and Jesus spoke to the people of His day, and the Spirit of God is speaking to us today in regard to the condition of our hearts. **Matthew 15:7:** “*Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, 8: This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*” We can’t just talk and say we love God and want to serve Him. We must have a heart for the Cross God prepared and provided for us. And notice I said the Cross that God prepared for us: not the pretty Cross that we in Christianity have devised for ourselves. The Reality of THE Cross (and it is unique and exclusively THE Cross of Christ) is that it is an ugly, bloody thing. And when you really have an encounter with The Cross, you are not the same! We embrace the “concept” of the Cross and the teaching of the Cross very easily. And we read our Bibles and say we “know” the reality of the Finished Work of the Cross in Christ. We have come to an intellectual knowledge of the Cross as a thing – even a Spiritual thing that is necessary for our Christian walk. But we balk and reject its full working in us, and that is a problem. And this is

the reason very few Christians are walking in the fulness of our Great Salvation: IN OUR HEARTS WE HAVE REJECTED THE FULL WORKING OF THE CROSS.

Peter blatantly did it when Jesus spoke of His Cross. Remember Jesus always walked in an understanding that the Father's Will would only be accomplished by Him going to the Cross. **Matthew 16:21:** *"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. 22: Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23: But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."* Peter was just looking at things from his natural, fleshly perspective: for his own purposes. And Jesus rebukes him as an offense saying you do not savor the things of God, but of man. And man will always deny and reject the Cross! The Cross to the flesh will always be an offense and flesh will reject the Cross; but what we have to understand is that TO GOD the flesh man is an offense, and God has the means to deal with that man – the Cross. And by the Finished Work of the Cross, God has separated that man and that whole realm from Himself. Jesus goes on and tells them that if they are going to follow Him it must be by way of the Cross. And He is not speaking of merely accepting the Cross one time, or using it when it is convenient, but LIVING BY THE CROSS. **Matthew 16:24:** *"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25: For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26: For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* And Jesus wasn't talking about "denying ourselves" chocolate during Lent, like we do: but denying our soul life – the flesh life. Now Peter did not have the revelation of God's Eternal Plan in Christ at that time, so perhaps you can say he had an excuse. But what about us?

If we are not honoring God's Wisdom of that Cross and allowing that to work in us, Paul has a harsh term for that: **"enemies of the cross"**. **Philippians 3:17:** *"Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18: (For many walk, of whom*

*I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the **enemies of the cross of Christ.** 19: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)"* And I really want to consider this with you. There are many who claim to be Christians but are not walking in the Reality of what that Cross has done. They still mind earthly things; they still think they have their own life to live even though they say they will "live it for Jesus". And they are Enemies of the Cross of Christ. They are enemies against God's wisdom and have rejected His Grace, and they have set aside (at least in their hearts) the judgment that God set forth at the Cross. And this is a very serious matter. They have refused to accept the Cross as the Finished Work that God is totally satisfied with. In their ignorance of the Finality of that Work they are still waiting for the Lord to come back again to "finish the Work", even though He Himself already said "**IT IS FINISHED.**" (John 19:30) And I want us to notice that it is "the Cross of Christ" – this is uniquely HIS Cross: the Plan of God accomplishing all that He desires. We need to understand that by HIS Cross He did what NO ONE else could have done, and HIS Cross totally satisfied the heart of the Father. This is why it is so important that we understand all things from GOD'S perspective and not from man's. If we try to understand the Cross from man's perspective we are ENEMIES OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST.

Now I really want us to consider this and not take this lightly. Because when we believe that we can receive God's Salvation and His Life, but still continue to live "my life" and function in the flesh and by the flesh, for the flesh; expecting God to forgive me and just keep blessing me in the flesh, then we are rejecting God's Judgment that He executed by the Cross. And we are rejecting the absoluteness of the Cross as God's Grace by which we have obtained our Salvation. And we are trying to live as "good men who go to church and do good things" before God. Or we try to make up religious Laws and Commandments by which we deem ourselves righteous and deserving of God's favor. This is the vain imagination of religious man who has exalted himself against the knowledge of God, and this all must be torn down, cast out, and brought into the obedience of Christ. And that means the obedience of the Cross. This is serious because our only claim to righteousness is by the Work of His Cross. Paul said we are not saved by our good works, but by God's Grace, and that is by the Cross. And if we are still trying to become

righteous by the things that we are doing 'religiously' then we are making the Cross of none effect, and saying that the Lord died in vain. And that is serious!

Remember what Jesus became on that Cross. He became sin and bore the judgment of man: God's righteous judgment against ALL mankind (not just the "bad" men, but ALL mankind). And He became cursed of God! **Galatians 3:13:** *"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."* This is God's Judgment: His decision - unto death: a full and complete separation from God came upon all mankind by the Cross. But in our stubborn hearts we refuse God's righteous judgment: we say that it's too harsh. We deny God's judgment (in our own hearts against that man), and we want God to let the old man live. And we even ask God to bless him! We ask God to bless what He has already cursed, rejected and put away! This is an **Enemy of the Cross of Christ**. And rather than accepting God's Judgment and Grace, we try to get God to change and accept the flesh—to accept me. But in the Reality of the Cross we know that God only accepts His Son, and even though we reject the full working of the Cross and deceive ourselves, God's Eternal Plan will never change. The Cross is God's wisdom, His power, and His love made known to us, and by that Cross He has gotten The Man that pleases Him – not I, but **CHRIST**. May we not be found as Enemies of the Cross of Christ, striving against God's Plan and Will.

Pt. 2- Being Enemies of The Cross Of Christ

I pray that you can hear my heart for the Body of Christ in this sharing. I am not questioning our love for the Lord, or that we are "saved"; but there are very few Christians who are walking in the fulness of our Salvation. We are still in bondage to our flesh – most especially our religious flesh, and "the church" today is not functioning as the early Church did – in the Reality of their New Life, and that is a burden on my heart.

And I truly believe it is because we have strayed so far from the true

Gospel that Paul preached: of **Christ and Him crucified**. **II Corinthians 11:3**: *“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”* And that means from the singleness of the message of Christ and The Cross. There is no true wisdom and power in Christianity today because we have replaced the preaching of the Cross (the death, burial and resurrection of Christ continually working in our hearts) with man’s doctrines, and that is a tragic mistake! Paul strongly warned the Galatian church about this. **Galatians 1:6**: *“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8: But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”* Paul didn’t tell them to keep “their own beliefs” and make “their own church”. He said you have separated yourselves from HIM – your Life! You have removed yourselves from the Grace of God and have perverted the Gospel of Christ and Him crucified (the ONLY Gospel there is), and Paul says whoever does that is accursed! We have substituted “our” doctrines of prosperity, ministry gifts and becoming ‘perfect Christians’ rather than preaching the true Gospel of Christ and the Cross. The only thing we should focus on and rejoice in is the Cross. This is the understanding that the Apostle Paul came to, and this is the understanding we need to come to also. **Galatians 6:14**: *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”*

And sadly we have to admit that because we have not remained faithful to this singular teaching of the Cross we have become **Enemies of the Cross of Christ**. (Philippians 3:18). Now “enemies” is a strong word, but this implies being an adversary and refusing to submit to the One who rules. Now He does rule – in heaven, in Spirit, in Reality, but the question is – does He rule everything IN YOU? And this is the challenge to our hearts because we must submit to the Cross of Christ in everything, and accept the Judgment of the Cross and not strive against its working in us. Most of us only want to submit to the Cross so that we can have forgiveness of sins and have the “bad things that I do” taken away; but deny the greater Work of the Cross that takes away ME! We are Enemies of the Cross of Christ when we are disobedient to that

Finished Work, and in our hearts set aside the Judgment of that Cross. And I'm telling us that when we do that, we cannot walk in the fulness of our Salvation. We take disobedience as a small thing, but any form of disobedience against the Cross of Christ causes us to be an Enemy of God because we are Enemies of God's Will and Eternal Plan. The Cross is the totality of God's Plan: we can NOT be disobedient to the Cross, and still be "obedient to God". And we really can not only be obedient to part of the Cross, and not to its full Work. So let us consider how we are Enemies against Him.

Now we know that by the Work of the Cross in Resurrection God has totally exalted His Son and given Him a Name above all other names. He is in total victory now because of the Finished Work of the Cross! But Hebrews talks about "enemies". **Hebrews 10:12:** *"But this man, (Jesus) after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13: From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool."* The Lord is now seated at the right hand of God in full authority and power but expecting till his enemies come unto total subjection to Him. And since the Devil is already defeated, and unbelievers are judged to be dead, the "enemies" must be speaking of the disobedience in US: in those who refuse to come under His absolute rule. We want His blessing, but we will not see ourselves dead to the world and flesh, and honor what Christ has already done by the Work of the Cross. At the Cross God pronounced judgment not only on sin, but on the Devil, the first man and that whole world system, and even the Old Covenant as being no longer needed. But we are still trying to hold on to "our lives", and be "better people", so that God can bless us with earthly things. This is what we teach in many parts of Christianity today, but look at what James says speaking to the Church. **James 4:4:** *"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."* And this is speaking of the whole world system, the world of man, and even man's religious system that is prevalent in Christianity today. Whoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God—and he is speaking to the church! Why? Because we have rejected God's Judgment of the Cross.

You see we know there has to be Cross, but we don't really want to embrace **THE CROSS OF CHRIST**. Our understanding of The Cross of

Christ has to become God's understanding. It has to come from a very small view of just being two wooden sticks upon which an historic Jesus died, and that has "saved us from our sins", but doesn't do much else. That Cross is limited in scope and substance. God's understanding of The Cross is much more: it is heavy: with height and depth: massive in size and scope. And if this Cross is diagrammed on paper it would go from the top of the page to the bottom, not allowing anything to pass through it, or over or under it. His Cross is weighty and of tremendous consequence! When you "come to His Cross" n Truth and are dealt with by His Cross, you will NOT remain the same.

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

But in our religious minds, we have constructed a "false cross": and this is a very serious matter because we have substituted HIS Cross for OUR Cross, and defined it ourselves, rather than understanding it is HIS Cross, and by the Cross God accomplished His Eternal Plan. This "false Cross" is a much smaller Cross, and does not deal with the issues of Life and Death that are dealt with in His Cross, and is less severe in its judgment and sharpness.

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

OUR FALSE CROSS

The false cross allows you to deal with a doctrine or a teaching that you learn, and can dismiss aspects of it and ignore it when convenient because it is an intellectual or emotional concept to you. In this comprehension you will wear the Cross outwardly as a symbol of your faith, but never bear the INWARD working of The Cross in your soul. The false cross allows you to be religious, and satisfies the flesh with a show of godliness, but does not transform and change the inner man. The True Cross of Christ does NOT deal with the intellect or emotions, and does not allow the flesh to remain and become religious. The True Cross eliminates the flesh, the old man and his works, and brings forth another Man altogether, who is not religious, but is walking in a relationship of oneness with God as Father through The Son and the Work of The Cross.

The false cross allows you to remain in religious traditions: types and shadows and in-part knowledge of God, seeing things through the veil of flesh, darkly imagining who God is and what He is doing. The True Cross of Christ removes the veil of flesh and your soul is flooded with Light, enabling you to walk in full Light, full knowledge. The false cross judges according to man's understanding. For example, righteousness is in our clothing, where we go or don't go; and we judge according to what WE do in the flesh rather than what Christ has done by His Cross. The operation of this false cross in religion is what divides Christians today: we define these issues by "our" doctrines" and "our" churches and beliefs. But the True Cross of Christ removes those issues and sums up and understands all things of God IN HIM.

So when I say a "false cross", here are just a few examples to show you what I mean: (although this is far reaching and very insidious: we do not know the depths to which this false cross has become ingrained in us.)

- We devise a cross where I believe I am judged according to right and wrong; good and bad. This is where God judges my "actions", and we believe God "gives us a break" from judgment because we mean well, and try so hard. And because we judge ourselves or others as basically "good", we feel we deserve to receive God's blessings and go to Heaven when we die. But God judges (makes a decision and separates) between Adam and Christ: death and Life – a much greater judgment.

- We know that the Cross deals with “sins”, and we continue to depend on the Cross to “forgive us our sins”, but the Cross of Christ deals with much more than just forgiveness of sins. “Our” cross takes away the bad parts of me and my sins, but leaves “me” – trying to do better and what is right. “Our” cross leaves ME as a sinner, still trying not to sin. But HIS Cross does away with the sinner and brings forth a New Man who is dead TO sin, but alive unto God. God is not looking for “better sinners”, but His Son.
- The false cross is dull – not sharply dividing between the soul and the Spirit, but merely making flesh wounds, that we then suffer for awhile, but which eventually heal. It is the difference between a butter knife and a machete. The butter knife cannot sever the flesh and remove it – only a machete can, and cleanly leaves nothing alive. But because the flesh does not “like” the severe and final judgment of HIS Cross, we feel more comfortable and happier with this false cross because it does not delve so deep into our hearts, and it leaves us intact. In essence, we have made a “pretty cross” that tolerates the flesh and allows it to remain. But the TRUE Cross of Christ is ugly, bloody, despicable and does away totally with all flesh.
- The false cross easily becomes “my cross” to bear, and we see that as my unfaithful husband, or my children, or the circumstances of my life. And by this “we” think we are suffering “for Jesus” and He will honor our suffering. But the True Cross is HIS Cross, and it is HIS death that we must bear, and the fellowship of HIS sufferings.
- The false cross becomes the place where we “take our burdens or our sins” and leave them there. But we never bring OURSELVES to the cross, so “I” go away from the false cross the same. This all appears to be “religious” and causes us to be pious, but without the True Cross working in us, there is no change in us. When we encounter a Work of the Cross of Christ I am crucified, and I am NO MORE! This is why the flesh despises and rejects the True Cross of Christ. The false cross allows our religious traditions and carnal understandings and observances to remain, and so often makes us self righteous. The True Cross of Christ takes away self.

What is so sad to me is that if we allow this false cross to function in our hearts and minds, it becomes an impediment to us coming to the TRUE Cross – the Cross of CHRIST. And then there is no real working of His Cross in us – His death, burial and then resurrection. This is a false position according to God’s view. And in order for you to remain in the ‘falseness of the false Cross’ you must solidify false doctrines that allow you to remain in this condition, constantly striving against The Truth. The Spirit desires to bring you out of darkness – by The Word, by the Revealing of Truth in the Person of Christ, but you must reject that and harden your heart and build walls keeping you in this false position, and really keeping you from experiencing the True Work of The Cross. And I think we have to admit that is what “religion” has done: kept us from the True Cross of Christ and the Working of Christ in our souls. And sad to say many Christians are living in the falseness of this false cross, in their own religious righteousness. We are still trying to circumcise the flesh and just cut off the “bad parts”, rather than coming to the greater circumcision of **Christ. Colossians 2:11:** *“In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:”* We have to recognize that in the Reality of the Cross, the circumcision of Christ takes away not only the sins that we commit, but the body of the sins of the flesh. We must submit ourselves to that total circumcision that leaves nothing of me. But rather than embracing the full Work of the Cross, we have made religions that make a “better me”. And “me” is an Enemy of the Cross of Christ. The Jews of Paul’s day did this rather than submitting to God’s judgment and His righteousness. **Romans 10:2:** *“For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3: For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4: For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”* And Christians today do the same thing. We go around trying to make ourselves righteous, rather than submitting ourselves to God’s righteousness – **Christ**.

And we really have to understand that the Cross was God’s Grace, and at the Cross Christ did what neither man could do for himself, or what the Old Covenant Law could do. And because the Cross has happened, and God’s Grace became known by the Cross, if we go back to thinking that

the Law will make us perfect and fulfill God's Plan, then we are denying the effectiveness of the Cross. **Galatians 2:21:** *"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."* And as seriously, we are trampling on the Blood that He shed and saying that it was of none effect. This is a strong word, but the letter to the Hebrews warns us of this. **Hebrews 10:28:** *"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"* Remember God's Grace was made known by the Cross and we have to honor what the Blood has done. The Cross made an Eternal Judgment between flesh and Spirit, and this could only be done by Jesus coming as flesh and accomplishing what the Old Covenant Law could NOT do. **Romans 8:2:** *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 5: For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6: For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8: So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."* We must honor God's view of flesh and Spirit, and what God has done at The Cross. If not we are **"enemies of the Cross of Christ."** **Hebrews 6:4:** *"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5: And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6: If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."* This is all serious because of the FINISHED Work of The Cross.

Those who seek to go back under the Law today are Enemies of the Cross of Christ! He has fulfilled the Law by His death, burial and resurrection. We now must submit ourselves to that Finished Work. It must be totally submitting ourselves to the Will of God which was made known at the Cross. The heart of Jesus was always that: "not My Will but

Thy Will be done”, the Will of the Father. And friends, if we are still functioning by “my” will, and desiring God to do things “my” way, we are Enemies of the Cross of Christ because at the Cross God’s Will is satisfied and He got what He desired – HIS SON now living in a people who He has brought to Himself as ONE SON. God is not looking for “me”: He is looking for CHRIST. We must let that mind: a willing, obedient mind be in us. **Philippians 2:5:** *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even **the death of the cross.**”* Our obedience must be HIS obedience – obedient to the death of the Cross: obedient to the Judgment of God by that Cross: obedient to the DEATH that is uniquely HIS. This is not simply by me dying my physical death, but embracing THE death of THE Cross – willingly, not grudgingly, but thankfully. And if we are not obedient to this death then we **are Enemies of the Cross of Christ.**

And let me just finish here by reminding us of God’s thought concerning “enemies”. This is serious to God. He cast out Lucifer and his followers from Heaven because they desired to exalt themselves above the rule of Heaven. And we see this in type and shadow when Israel came into Canaan. They were told to DESTROY the enemy: not tolerate them and deal with them. They not only had to identify the enemy, but they were told NOT to make Covenant with them, not to marry with them, and certainly not to desire a relationship with them. God was very adamant about this. Why? Because allowing the enemies to remain in the midst of Israel damaged the Testimony of who they were: they were a peculiar people separated unto God, who lived in the earth with Him in their midst bearing His Name, and they were to be ruled by Him and make His Name known in the earth. Now in the Old Covenant time these enemies were other nations, but the real enemies are in our hearts: the “me” that refuses to come into total subjection to His rule in everything. And we must stop making Covenant with God’s enemies in order to make this more convenient or easier for us. We must stop tolerating any disobedience to Him and His rule, and totally destroy every thought and desire that is contrary to HIM. Only then will we truly be in the earth the Witness that God intended His people to be. The **Enemies of the Cross**

of Christ that still remain in our unrenewed minds and hearts have got to be dealt with! **II Corinthians 10:5:** *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”* And “the obedience of Christ” is obedience to THE CROSS.

Pt. 3 – Denying the Judgment of The Cross

I pray that during these days we are allowing the Lord to search our hearts. And as we are coming to a greater comprehension of the greatness of The Finished Work of the Cross, we know that God expects us to walk in agreement with the Cross and what He has done by the death, burial and resurrection of His Son. And as we have said before, this is serious because we are coming to the knowledge of the Cross – God’s view. We must accept the Cross as God’s Grace and not reject its work in our hearts, as Enemies of the Cross of Christ. Our problem is that we haven’t seen by the Spirit The Cross of Christ and in our imaginations – by religion, our traditions, a zeal of God by our fleshly understandings we have created a FALSE cross, and we are trying to function by that. But this false cross deceives you: it leaves the flesh and will make you religious and self righteous. And the danger in this false cross is that it is an impediment to the TRUE Cross and its true working that eliminates all of ME and leaves nothing but CHRIST. And we must remember that it is possible for us to accept what Jesus did on the Cross for us: but reject that same Work of death and burial that has to work in us in order for us to come forth in Newness of Life – His Life. And if we reject any part of The Finished Work of the Cross now working in us, in our souls, then we are **Enemies of the Cross of Christ**.

We read in Hebrews 10 that if you despised Moses’ Law and refused to observe it – you died! It has to be more serious if we despise and reject what Jesus did at the Cross and despise the Spirit of Grace. Remember we must understand that God’s Grace was made known to us by the Cross. We must understand the importance of the Cross in God’s mind as a Finished Work, and we must accept the Judgment God brought by

the Cross – His righteous Judgment of all things. To reject the Judgment and full Work of the Cross means we are Enemies to God. Remember to the flesh man the Cross is an offense, and we reject it. But to God the flesh is an offense, and He by the Cross has totally rejected that man, and the whole realm of that flesh man. This is the view we have to come to: accepting God's Judgment. But the Cross goes even further. By the Cross God has provided the means for us to come to Him without offense – in Christ, and to be accepted of God. **II Corinthians 5:21:** *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* We cannot deny the Judgment of the Cross and remain in fellowship with God in Life.

So let us look a little at God's view of "the Judgment" that comes by Christ and the Cross. The word "judgment" means to come to a decision and separate. And remember, God's view of Judgment does not separate good from bad. That is man's view of Judgment. God judges and separates the living from the dead. This is what God established even before the world was. **Acts 17:31:** *"Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."* Before the world was, God appointed a day and He appointed A MAN by which He would Judge the world in righteousness. Notice this Scripture does not say "men" or "religion". But God would judge the world by **"THAT"** man – who is Christ! And to give assurance of Life by this man, God raised Him from the dead! What is important is that we see God had appointed "a day of judgment" for the inhabited earth, and of all men. ALL will be judged by That Man – Christ. The Judgment is not of their works: whether they be good or bad, but all men will be judged by HIS SON. "The day" is the day of the Cross: the time God appointed. And the Judgment is whether you believe on the Son of God or not. This is God's righteous Judgment.

John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17: For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18: He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19: And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world,*

and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” God gave His Son to give everlasting Life: to separate the dead from the living. The Judgment is not designed to bring condemnation, but Life: but you must believe in **HIM**. If you do not believe in the Light that God sent, you are already condemned. But now if we believe in Him, and have received Him, then we should receive the Judgment He brought and not deny what God has done by the Work of the Cross. He separated the dead from the living: He separated the Light from darkness. And we now should totally accept the Judgment that Jesus brought by the Cross and allow that Judgment to take place in our hearts.

We need to recognize the greatness and the finality of this Judgment. Jesus came to execute this Judgment. **John 12:31**: *“Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.”* Jesus said NOW—at the Cross this Judgment takes place. And by the Cross the first creation, the first man, the first covenant—everything of the flesh, of sin and death is judged to be what it is, and separated from God. And by the Cross He brings forth Life as Second: a New Creation, a New Man, a New Covenant—everything New in Him. This has been accomplished by the Cross and the Father is satisfied by this Judgment. And it is this “judgment” that we are constantly brought to face—now—in our daily walk. If we submit and agree to this Judgment, we will experience the reality of our New Life in Christ. But too often we are denying this Judgment, and this cripples our walk with the Lord and the fulness of experiencing Him as our Life. Remember this Judgment is settled in Heaven. This is the reason why the Son of God came to this earth. God is not going to change His Judgment because we don’t like it! We must embrace it willingly, obediently, and fully in our hearts.

Remember the “story” of Noah. **Genesis 6:8** says *“Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”* Now Noah in type was used to set forth God’s Salvation in the earth, but I want us to see that Noah “found grace” or experienced God’s grace because he did not deny God’s judgment on man. **Genesis 6:5**: *“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6: And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. 7: And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I*

have made them.” God saw the man was evil, and the only thing for God to do was to destroy that man and that whole creation! That was God’s Judgment. He didn’t try to fix Adam and the world, He would destroy it. Noah didn’t debate with God, didn’t try to get Him to change His mind, or even try to get man to behave and do better. Noah obeyed God and built the Ark, and did everything as God commanded him to do. And because of that obedient heart: agreeing with God’s judgment upon man and His means of dealing with it: by destroying all of it Noah found grace.

Our problem is that in our hearts so often we refuse God’s Judgment on man: we are still trying to see some good in “me”. We want God to judge and take away “the bad in me”, but leave “the good”. By this we want to keep our life rather than lose it, and this is totally contrary to the Work of the Cross. And by this we are denying the Judgment of the Cross and are an Enemy of the Cross of Christ. And I pray that we clearly understand that God’s Judgment is a righteous Judgment: He is separating from Himself that which is the flesh, that which can never please Him, and can never live before Him. This is the Judgment, a decision that we have to come to in our hearts.

We see this vividly with Abraham concerning the son that God would give Abraham by promise, not by fleshly efforts. And we all know that Ishmael was a product of Abraham’s flesh, desiring to give God what He wanted; rather than waiting on God to produce in Abraham the son that He desired. And when it came time in the household to separate the son of the flesh from the son of promise, Abraham still wanted to keep Ishmael. **Genesis 17:18:** *“And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!”* And unfortunately this is too often the condition of our heart also. We do not want to accept God’s Judgment against the flesh, and we ask God to allow the product of our flesh to remain before Him, but He never will! **Genesis 17:19:** *“And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. 20: And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. 21: But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.”* And notice how firm and clear God is

with Abraham. God always speaks Truth in the knowledge of His Eternal Plan and His Son, and is not impressed by the things that we “try to do for the Lord”. God said I am not making Covenant with the product of flesh. God would only make Covenant with the Son that He brought forth, the Son of Promise. Abraham had to accept that Judgment, but then the son of flesh and the one who produced it had to be PUT OUT. **Genesis 21:10:** *“Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.”* But still Abraham’s heart was AGAINST God’s Judgment. **Genesis 21:11:** *“And the thing was very grievous in Abraham’s sight because of his son.”* But God’s Judgment remained, and finally Abraham came to the obedience of God’s Judgment on Mount Moriah where he WILLINGLY AND OBEDIENTLY sacrificed his son to the Lord. (Genesis 22) And THEN God could begin to show him the greatness of the blessings promised. Why? Because Abraham was OBEDIENT TO GOD’S JUDGMENT. May the Lord apply this “story” to our hearts as we admit our disobedience and accept His Judgment in ALL things.

We also see this in the scriptures regarding Saul as Israel’s King. Saul never was God’s choice for King, but the people wanted a King so that they could be like everybody else. And because they desired a flesh King, God gave them one. But “their” King was totally disobedient to God’s Will: trying to be a Priest, keeping the spoils of the enemy that God told him to destroy and lying about it: doing the things that HE thought God wanted. But God would not allow this to continue, and would remove Saul because He already had HIS choice for King. But even though we know the flesh cannot serve God, we still cling to the rule of the flesh, and want to ask God to let the flesh remain. Samuel was upbraided by God for this: he still wanted to keep Saul as King. **I Samuel 16:1:** *“And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.”* We have to accept that GOD has totally REJECTED the man of flesh, and agree to that rejection, and not ask God to accept what He has already put away as being unacceptable. But even with Samuel, he continued to look with the eyes of the flesh on Jesse’s sons, and EVERY ONE of those boys were rejected of God because *“the Lord hath not chosen these.”* (1 Samuel 16:10) But the Lord did have HIS

choice for King, and only HE was recognized and anointed. **I Samuel 16:12:** *“And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. 13: Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward...”* God has HIS choice and He will not accept another!

And this is something I pray the Lord will make real in our hearts. We may pray earnestly and sincerely for the Lord to bless and honor our fleshly pursuits, but God is not faithful to the works of our flesh. But He does remain faithful to His Son, the Son that He is in Covenant with. But to Abraham, and even to us it is difficult for us to face this Judgment and put away that which we have produced. Just as Abraham learned not to deny God’s Judgment, we must also. And that means putting out the flesh man and his mother: the one who would produce another offspring in bondage to the flesh. This is how the “depth of the Judgment” will work in our lives: it divides and separates, but then there also must be a **PUTTING AWAY OF THAT WHICH GOD HAS REJECTED**. And that Judgment continues to work, and we must continually be **OBEDIENT** to that Judgment if we are going to experience the fulness of our New Covenant Life and relationship with God in Christ. In order to live now in the fulness of our New Life we must not be Enemies of the Cross of Christ, but willingly **ACCEPT** God’s Judgment as righteous, embrace that Judgment, and allow it to continue to make a clear division in me – separating the Living from the dead. That is my prayer for you.

Pt. 4 – Embracing God’s Judgment

Through these lessons I pray that we are comprehending the greatness of our Salvation and the sad fact that so few Christians are walking in the Truth of our New Life in Christ. I am coming to see that the reason is because we have not fully embraced the Finished Work of the Cross. Most Christians see things only as related to themselves, and do not comprehend God’s Eternal Plan and the centrality of the Cross and what

it has accomplished. But that is vital to our growth in the Lord, and in walking in the Reality of what the Cross of Christ has done. And when we make man the center of God's Plan, and attempt to find all things summed up and fulfilled in man, then we are **Enemies of the Cross of Christ**.

As we have said, the Cross is a Finished Work: totally satisfying God's Will and His Eternal Plan regarding His relationship with mankind. We cannot change that Plan: we can either accept it or reject it. And because we as Christians have not fully embraced that Finished Work, and are not allowing that judgment to take place in our hearts, we are not experiencing the fulness of the Life we now have in Christ. And this is the tragedy of it to me: we have this Life NOW, and we can only walk in the Truth of this New Life by embracing what the Cross has done. Most of us are wondering 'what the Lord is going to do', but we fail to agree with and embrace what He has already done by the Cross. We fail to embrace the JUDGMENT of the Cross.

Everything starts and ends with God's Plan, all according to His good pleasure. **Ephesians 1:10**: *"That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him."* The purpose, substance, essence of all things to God is in Christ. And this comes to fulness by the Work of the Cross whereby God judges everything, and separates what is dead: not just sinful Adam and his world system, but even the types and shadows of the Old Covenant from the living: all that is Christ and in Christ. This is the Judgment of the Cross. And this is the Administration of the Spirit that we are now living under. We should not be looking for this day to come or for judgment to come. This has already taken place at the Cross, for this was always God's Plan.

Hebrews 1:1: *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2: Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."* In time past, under the Old Covenant God spoke in many ways, but at the end of those days (they were finished by the Cross) He now speaks unto us IN SON, and in His Son God says everything He desires to tell us and show us. The Cross separates God's ways of speaking: in types and shadows under the Old

Covenant - and in Truth, in Christ, in a New Covenant. We now have to fully embrace that Judgment: not looking for words and promises to come, but finding all God's promises to be fulfilled in The Word – Christ Himself. And if we refuse to accept this Judgment, this separation that came by the Cross then we will not hear how God is now speaking. And when our hearts refuse to hear His Voice and come to the Truth that is now in Christ by the Work of the Cross, then we are denying the Work of the Cross and are **Enemies of the Cross of Christ**. It is important that we embrace how God now speaks – in Son, because if we refuse to hear Him we can easily become deceived and function according to the mind of man.

We can still appear to be religious and to love the Lord, but not acknowledge what God has done by the Cross, and remember the Cross is God's Will, His Eternal Plan. Our religious zeal and ignorance causes us too often to function like Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration. Jesus was giving them a glimpse of how things would change when He would go to the Cross, but Peter held firm to his old mentality. **Matthew 17:1:** *"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 : And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. 3: And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. 4: Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. 5: While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye HIM."* God does not want three tabernacles, and He is not seeing individuals. He sees His Son in the power of the Cross and Resurrection, and this is what pleases the Father. And this is the Judgment that should be taking place in us as Christians: not judging us as to "good and bad acts", but separating what is Christ and what is not. And not acknowledging that transition, that Judgment causes us to be **Enemies of the Cross of Christ**.

I Peter 4:17: *"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"* The Judgment of the Cross must begin in our hearts, and it is often through the situations that we go through that we

see how much of Christ is there, and how much of “me” still remains. And as we have been saying, many of us have been seeking to save our own lives, and by this we are **Enemies of the Cross of Christ**. Jesus said in **Luke 9: 24**, *“if you will save your life you shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, shall save it—and find his life.”* I ask you to search your heart - Do you do that? **Luke 9:23**: *“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”* He is not merely speaking of us “denying ourselves worldly pleasures”, but coming to the knowledge of Galatians 2:20. **IT IS NOT I, BUT CHRIST WHO LIVETH**. This is all contingent upon us embracing the Judgment of the Cross as a settled fact, and allowing that Judgment (which separates the living from the dead, the soul from the Spirit) to work in me continually. This reality has to be settled in my heart before I can truly enter into God’s rest, and walk daily in the Reality of my New Life in Christ. God desires only an increase of HIS SON in us unto His Fulness, and when we deny the Work of the Cross that brings me to NOT I, then we are **Enemies of the Cross of Christ**, and can never satisfy the heart of God.

But I want to emphasize that we must not see this as something that WE have to do: rather we have to agree with and accept what CHRIST has already done at the Cross. Many times when people begin to embrace the “message of the Cross” that we preach, and see the Truth of “Not I, but Christ”, then they say ‘well I just have to die. My problem is that I have to die to self, the world, sin, etc.’ But this is NOT so: we have to AGREE with God’s Judgment and Work and not strive against the reality of that Finished Work. **II Corinthians 5:14**: *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead.”* And “dead” means separated from God. The love of Christ, which He has shown to us by the Cross presses upon us and causes us to come to a settled conclusion: that if One (Christ) died for all, then were all dead. This is the reality of God’s Judgment at the Cross. Mankind is judged to be dead, and separated from God. Paul speaks of us “reckoning” this reality to be true. And this “reckon” means to take an inventory and conclude, account, reason, think (on). But we must come to KNOW what Christ has done, and what His Cross has done with us. **Romans 6:6**: *“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”* We do not have to try to get crucified and dead: but KNOW that our

old man IS crucified as one with Christ when He died. And what is so in Christ, is now what we need to RECKON to be so in us: concluding and reasoning it to be so. **Romans 6:10:** *"For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

And when we come to this Judgment: that by the Cross I died, and now only have Life IN and BY Christ in Resurrection Power; that affects how I now live the Life that I have. And for you and I to still think that we have a life (even though I will serve God with it), or that God owes us something because we are "good people who deserve to go to heaven", then we are denying Jesus's death, and God's Plan, and refusing God's Judgment. And this is very serious. We can sing and shout that we love the Lord, but if we truly love Him then we will embrace His Will, and His righteous Judgment that He made known at the Cross. And the only way we can truly be free from the "issue of sin" in our lives is to RECKON ourselves, our old man, the man of flesh to be DEAD to sin in Christ, and alive only – not to sin, but to God. And if we accept His righteous Judgment, accounting ourselves as the old Adamic man and the Old Covenant man dead by believing on the Finished Work of the Cross, then we can truly see Him as Life – the only Life we have.

Now we come to Life: but it is by God's Judgment. It is not "my" life, but HIS, and we recognize the price that He paid to give us this Life. It was His death on the Cross: coming to this earth in the form of flesh, to die as sin so that we could come to Life. But now there are consequences of embracing this Judgment. **I Corinthians 6:19:** *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20: For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* When we recognize the greatness of the Cross and the Life He has now given us, we do not live unto ourselves, but we live unto Him. Now we live in and by the Judgment of the Cross. **II Corinthians 5:15:** *"And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."* And now there is a continual working of the Judgment of the Cross in us. **16:** *"Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we*

have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.17: Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." I know we all quote that scripture: that we are a New Creature, and old things are passed away; but in reality we still function as an old creature, but we have been forgiven, and we are on our way to heaven. This saddens me because we are not the Witness in the earth of the New Creation that is in Christ, and it is because we have REFUSED to fully accept God's Judgment of the Cross: and when we do we are **Enemies of the Cross of Christ**.

It is only by fully embracing God's Judgment which is righteous and settled eternally, and allowing that to work in us that we will come in experience – (not just say, but actually have this worked in our souls) to Paul's declaration of **Galatians 2:20**: *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* Most of us have to admit that the "I" is still very much alive. And that is because we have not fully embraced His death, and thereby function in the earth as **Enemies of the Cross of Christ**. But we should be living daily in God's Judgment of the Cross: not trying to die, but reckoning ourselves as dead: dead to sin but alive unto God in Christ Jesus. This is the reality of what the Cross of Christ has done, and God's dealings in us will bring us to an experiential knowledge of this Truth. It will not be by our fleshly efforts or good intentions, but by our fully embracing the Judgment of the Cross willingly and obediently. We must submit our wills to the Will of the Father and then bring every thought into this obedience. **Philippians 2:5**: *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:7 : But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* This is the obedience that we must come to: obedient unto death, even the Death of the Cross. May we no longer function as **Enemies of the Cross of Christ**, fighting against God's Judgment (you are not going to change it!); but may we embrace the full Work of the Cross as God's Right Judgment so that we may live in the fulness of our New Life in Christ and glorify the Father in all things. Amen.