

## **TRANSFORMED BY THE CROSS**

### **How What God Has Done In The Cross Of Christ Should Transform Who We Are And What We Become And Do**

#### **Matthew 10:38, 16:24**

38 Whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”

What does this mean?

#### **Galatians 2:19-20**

*19 I have been crucified with Christ; 20 and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself (on the cross) for me*

##### God's Action:

“the Son of God loved me and gave himself (on the cross) for me.”

##### My Response

I need to allow Christ to live within me -- and control me (my old life has been crucified in the cross!)

#### **2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 18**

*14 For the love of Christ (the death of Christ) urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. 15 And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;*

##### God's Action:

- (1) Out of love, Jesus gave himself away, dying for all
- (2) God reconciled us to himself through Christ

My Response . . . .

God's loving action should give us energy -- "urges us on":-- To do what?

(1) to give my life away to God and others

(2) to become a reconciler

### **Colossians 2:13-14 3:1, 5, 14**

*2: 13 When you were dead in trespasses . . . God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, 14erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. 3:5Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly:*

#### God's Action

Since God forgave me by "nailing my sins to the cross."

#### My Response:

I need to put to death/nail to the cross what is "earthly" in me

### **Philippians 2:1-13**

*5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 6who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, 7but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 8he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.*

#### God's Action

Since God -- "the greatest" -- was willing to stoop down, give up his freedom like a slave, and face humiliation on a cross

#### My Response

I need to have the same mind -- the same kind of serving love

- Doing nothing from selfish ambition or conceit
- In humility regarding others as better than yourselves
- Looking not to our own interests, but to the interests of others.

### **Hebrews 12**

*12Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that*

was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

### God's Action

Since, for our sins to be forgiven, we needed Jesus to endure the torture of the cross – disregard its shame, and endure great hostility against himself from sinners

### My Response:

I need to persevere in laying aside my sin

I must not grow weary or lose heart in the face of opposition

## 1 Peter 4

*12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.*

*13 But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.*

### God's Action

Christ suffered (even though he was the Son of God)

### My response:

Therefore, our/my suffering in some form is inevitable.

Get over it! Don't be surprised!

In fact: Rejoice – remember that in suffering I am sharing in what Jesus went through for me

## Matthew 6

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

<sup>12</sup> **Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

<sup>14</sup> **For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you;**

<sup>15</sup> **but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

God's Action: Dying to forgive

My Action:

I dare not “not forgive”