

HINGED ON THE CROSS (2)

By Keith Greer

Man's Redemption. "And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight." {Colossians 1:20-22} Who can deny the fact that the redemption of mankind's sins hinged on the cross? Sin had separated us from God {Isaiah 59:1,2}. God's eternal plan for our redemption had only one centerpiece—Christ's death on the cross! According to Ephesians 1:7, His blood provided "redemption and forgiveness of sins." It was the only way we could become pure enough to approach a Holy God. "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit." {1 Peter 3:18} How wonderful it is that such a tragic thing could provide such wonderful blessings! "Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." {Titus 2:14}

Eternal Life. "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him." {1 Thessalonians 5:9,10} When Jesus died on the cross, he obeyed His father and became the author of eternal life {Hebrews 5:8,9}.

The cross of Christ epitomizes God's grace, mercy, and compassion. His sacrifice must be the motivation for every believer who is striving and living for the promise of an eternal home with our Savior in heaven! "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory." {Colossians 3:1-4}

Our Resurrection. "But also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification." {Romans 4:24,25} Because our Lord overcame death and arose from the dead, we have the blessed assurance that we also will {1 Corinthians 15:20}. Without His resurrection, we would have no hope beyond the grave. After Christ's resurrection, He ascended back to the Father and offered Him His blood as a ransom payment for our sin—and the Father accepted the payment {Hebrews 9:24-28}. Every believer demonstrates his faith in Him by also dying (to sin) through obedience to the gospel. We die to sin, are buried in water, and rise to walk in newness of life {Romans 6:3,4; Philippians 3:10,11}.

God's providence made sure that no matter what choices man would make, he made many contrary to God's will and purposes, yet nothing would deter the plan formalized by our Creator. Sadly, many are deluded to accept many things men have done as if he had the power to defeat the one who created him. Please understand this is an impossibility and incorrect thinking on the part of sinful

men. Dear readers, every hope and promise God made under the Old Covenant hinged on the events of the cross. We should be eternally grateful for such a wonderful Savior! He paid the price for us, and by doing so, He fulfilled God's wonderful plan of redemption, paving the way for us to be in heaven with Him one day! Praise His holy name forever! ***