

THE CROSS CHANGED EVERYTHING



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LifeinJesus.net

‘The Cross Changed Everything’

by

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THE CROSS CHANGED EVERYTHING

Because of Jesus everything changed. These changes came about through His life, His suffering, His death on the Cross, His coming back to life and going back to heaven. Most of them were won specifically on the Cross. But all the other parts of Jesus's life depended on the Cross for their fulfilment, or followed from it, so it is possible to say that the Cross changed everything – well almost everything! There's a lot of information in this booklet, but don't be put off. As I explored this subject, I found it really exciting and hope you will too.

Law and Grace

Before Jesus's time, God's people had to live under God's law. Whenever I use the term 'the law', I am referring to the law God gave to His people in the Old Testament. It does not mean the laws of any country today. Under the law everything depended on how people performed or measured up. If they obeyed the law perfectly then they were blessed, but if they disobeyed it in any way they were cursed. The New Testament tells of Jesus's life, His death on the Cross and His resurrection and ascension. After the Cross, everything depends on God's grace - that's His unconditional and undeserved love for you.

The Significance of the Cross

So what was so significant about the Cross? On the Cross, God put the punishment for the things people do wrong, what the Bible calls sin, on Jesus, instead of on them. He still hates sin, but Jesus has suffered the punishment and it covered everyone's sin, so God's not angry with people anymore. Jesus freed them from being cursed when they sin. Galatians 3:13 says - *'Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us. For it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree."*' You can now be at peace with God. Through the Cross God was able to do what He had always wanted to do – make it possible for you to live in a wonderful, loving Father and child relationship with Him. Today, living after the Cross, it's not about

what you do, it's all about what Jesus did – that's amazingly good news!

It is really important to grasp the significance of this. People can be stuck in Old Testament thinking and need to see the whole truth of what Jesus has done for them and get their thinking right. You will not be able to go forward in the victory Jesus has won for you if you stay in Old Testament thinking. And God wants you to live in His victory even more than you do!

Some of the changes Jesus won on the Cross apply to everyone, but some apply to born-again Christians only. These are available to everyone, but only become real for those who have received Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. God loves you totally and unconditionally, but it's only as you're born-again that you will be able to experience

that wonderful love relationship with Him and start to experience the whole victory of the Cross.

(To read about being born-again, go to the end of this booklet.)

So What Are the Changes?

Because of the Cross, you can't automatically take everything from the Old Testament and apply it today. I am not saying that the Old Testament isn't important – it certainly is. But in this booklet my aim is to look at some of the things that are no longer relevant.

You must approach the Old Testament in the light of what has changed through the Cross. But first, I must point out that the Cross does not save Christians from being persecuted

because of their faith. The Bible makes this very clear.

Jesus won the victory over the devil

It was on the Cross that Jesus won the complete victory over the devil. 1 John 3:8 says - *'To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil.'* Because of the Cross, the devil no longer has the power or authority to mess people's lives up. You're thinking – "Hang on a minute – I can see lots of messed up lives around me and mine isn't brilliant either." Yes, but as a born-again Christian you have the power and authority to stand against the devil's schemes in Jesus's name and see the victory in your own life. And this is available to all who believe. But those who reject Jesus are still at the devil's mercy because they aren't able to stand in faith against him.

Jesus won complete forgiveness for everyone

On the Cross Jesus won free forgiveness for all your sins: past, present and future. It's as you receive that forgiveness that it becomes reality in your life. Colossians 2:13-14 says God has – *'forgiven us all our trespasses (sins), wiping out the handwriting in ordinances (the law) which was against us. He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.'* And because He's done this, God's not angry with you anymore. Romans 5:9 says - *'Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's wrath (anger) through him.'*

Jesus won the victory over sickness

It was on the Cross that Jesus won the victory over sickness. In the Old Testament God had to use sickness as a punishment to

teach people the right way to live. Deuteronomy 28:58-59 says *'If you will not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book ... then the LORD will make your plagues fearful, and the plagues of your offspring, even great plagues, and of long duration, and severe sicknesses, and of long duration.'* But this was never what He wanted to do, and through Jesus's suffering before and on the Cross, God defeated sickness. 1 Peter 2:24 says - *'You were healed by his wounds.'* The wounds are those inflicted on Jesus at His trial and on the Cross. So how come people still get sick? Sickness is still around but it's lost its power. If you get sick, healing is now possible in the name of Jesus, through faith in what He has won on the Cross.

Jesus won a grace relationship with God

Jesus won freedom from the law for born-again Christians. In the Old Testament people were acceptable to God in as far as they kept the law. After the Cross, when you've accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you are no longer under the law, but are accepted through God's grace – His unconditional, undeserved love for you. Romans 6:14 says - *'For you are not under law, but under grace.'* It's not about what you do anymore; it's about what Jesus has done. Ephesians 2:8-9 says - *'by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast.'*

Jesus won freedom from condemnation

You no longer need to feel condemned - how wonderful! If you do, it's not coming

from God; it's coming from people or from yourself. The devil always wants you to feel condemned, but you can walk out from under it because Jesus has taken your punishment and won your complete forgiveness, which wasn't available to Old Testament people. Romans 8:1 says - *'There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.'*

Jesus can live in you now

After He had come back to life, Jesus explained to His followers that He had to return to heaven so the Holy Spirit could come and live in the hearts of born-again Christians. Galatians 4:6 says - *'because you are children, God sent out the Spirit of his Son into your hearts.'* It is only possible because Jesus went back to heaven and that

was only possible because He died on the Cross.

You can have a brand-new perfect spirit

Your old sinful self or spirit was put to death with Jesus on the Cross. Romans 6:6 says your - *'old man (spirit) was crucified with him.'* And when you are born-again, you receive your brand-new spirit. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says - *'if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new.'* Of course you can still sin, but you are now free not to. Your old spirit was drawing you to sin, but your new spirit is drawing you to good living.

You can come to God directly

In the Old Testament people could only approach God through a priest. Jesus made

it possible for you to come to Him personally. Ephesians 2:18 says – ‘*For through him (Jesus) we ... have our access in one Spirit to the Father.*’ Just you and God – wow!

How Does This Affect the Way You Pray?

All this should affect the way you pray dramatically. You can't automatically assume Old Testament prayers are appropriate for born-again Christians to pray today. The things God has provided for you through Jesus you should no longer ask God for. Instead you need to thank Him for them. For many things it's now "Thank You" instead of "Please". Here are some examples.

God is with you

It was completely appropriate in the Old Testament for people to ask God to be with them, such as in Psalm 38:21 - *'Don't forsake me, LORD. My God, don't be far from me.'* But now you have Jesus's promise that He will never leave you. In Matthew 28:20 He said - *'Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'* So, instead of asking God to be with you, how wonderful that you can now pray with confidence, "Lord, I thank You that You are with me now, and always will be."

You are healed

Sickness was defeated on the Cross, but in Old Testament times this hadn't yet happened, so it was appropriate for people to ask God for healing, such as in Psalm 6:2 - *'LORD, heal me, for my bones are troubled.'*

But now you need to thank God that your healing is won, and command it to come into your body in Jesus's name. 1 Peter 2:24 says - *'You were healed by his wounds.'*

God's not angry with you

God's not angry with you because He poured all His anger against sin on Jesus. So when you do things wrong, you no longer have to ask Him not to be angry with you, like the people in the Old Testament did, as in Psalm 6:1 - *'LORD, don't rebuke me in your anger, neither discipline me in your wrath.'* Instead God wants you to turn away from the sin and receive His forgiveness. Romans 5:9 says - *'Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's wrath through him.'*

Other prayers

There are many other ways in which your prayers should differ from the way the Old Testament people prayed.

You can now be sure that God hears your prayers when you pray as He wants you to. You don't have to beg Him to listen – see the contrast in Psalm 27:7 and 1 John 5:14. You now have God's promise that when you believe in Jesus, He will never put you to shame – see the contrast in Psalm 71:1 and Romans 10:11. In the Psalms in the Old Testament there are many examples of people praying to God for revenge, such as Psalm 109:11-12. But Jesus teaches you to love your enemies – see Matthew 5:44.

And God has shown you complete mercy in Jesus. It is no longer appropriate for you to beg God for mercy as in Psalm 57:1. Instead,

you can rejoice in knowing that God has shown you complete mercy – see 1 Peter 2:10.

Just Receive

You do not have to ask, beg or plead with God for any of these things. God wants to give you the things He has provided through the Cross far more than you want to receive them! Although He still wants you to ask Him for the practical things you need, the vast majority of your prayers now can be expressing your love and thankfulness, and listening to Him.

Thank You Lord for the Cross

There are so many things which changed because of the Cross. These are just some.

If you start to look for more in the Bible yourself, you will find it a real blessing, just as I did. And it will make your relationship with God so much deeper.

Being Born-Again

When you acknowledge Jesus as God and decide to follow Him, you make Him your Lord. When you accept His sacrifice on the Cross for yourself personally, you make Him your Saviour. You are then born-again and have a new perfect spirit. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy your personal love relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9 says – *‘If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in*

your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you do, say and think. Choose to believe that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and is now alive. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Say it with your voice and believe it in your heart.

If you've done that sincerely, you are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. Everything you've ever done wrong or ever will do wrong is forgiven, and after this life is over, you'll live in peace and joy with your loving Father God for ever.

As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God's

love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

Life in Jesus

To read more about Jesus
and all He has done and won for us
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Everything changed when Jesus died on the Cross.

It was the most significant event
in the history of the world.

Yet many Christians stay in Old Testament ways of
thinking and miss much of the victory
of what Jesus has done for them.

Find out how the Cross can dramatically change
the way you think and pray.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the

booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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