

THE ARITHMETIC OF THE CROSS

TEXT: I COR. 1:18

INTRO:

-Paul is writing to a church just like this one and what he said to the "Church of God at Corinth" is still applicable for "ODBC" in the 20th century.

-The old rugged cross does make a difference.

-To some the preaching of the cross which means the just suffering for the unjust is still foolishness to them that perish and to some of us it is still the power of God.

-This morning we want to notice the Arithmetic Of the Cross.

-Praise God, it is ^{not} the new math but the old math, that has changed one bit since calvary. It is the only way.

I. THE CROSS SUBTRACTS ONE FROM HELL.

A. Everyone of us was on our way to hell.

1. We were by nature the born sons of wrath.

-Ephesians 2:1-3, describes our condition.

2. We were deserving to go there.

3. But the cross of Jesus Christ subtracted us from that damnation.

B. We were subtracted instantly.

-John 5:24: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

1. The very instant you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ you were saved.

2. That is ^{why} ~~we~~ salvation is by grace.
-If it were of works it might take a long time to be subtracted.
3. If it were by baptism, you'd have to wait until you were baptised to be saved.

C. We were substrated eternally.

-Romans 8:1: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,..."

1. There is therefore now and forever, no condemnation.
2. Who can condemn a child of God?
-God justifies. Christ died and is risen. - See Romans 8:33-34.
3. The cross is certainly "The power of God" to keep us out of hell.

II. THE CROSS ADDS ONE TO HEAVEN.

A. We were added to the family of God. - See Galatians 3:26
"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

1. "We are children of God by faith"
2. Our names are in the book of life. - See Phil 4:3.
-"And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose name are in the book of life."

-Why this is important - See Rev. 20:14-15.

"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

3. This is the greatest source of rejoicing because they can not be erased -
-See Luke 10:20. -Jesus said to his seventy disciples after their return, as they were rejoicing over the fact that the devils were subject to them through the name of Jesus. Jesus said to them: **"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."**

*Everyone of us was on our way to hell
For those who have called up his name for
salvation
- were subtracted
from hell - instantly
- eternally*

B. We are added to the protection of heaven.

1. The kingdom of satan is organized against us, the god of this world.

2. Yet , the angel of the Lord camps around us and delivers us.

-See Psalm 34:7 - "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

^{we} know angel of the Lord, ^{is} Lord Jesus Christ.

-Paul, the Apostle tells us who the angel of the Lord or the angel of God is:

-See Galatians 4:14 & Acts 27:23

"And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus."

Paul was on a ship in a storm he told the men on the ship: See Acts 27:21-23

"...the angel of God whose I am, and whom I serve," vs 23

3. The number of times the Lord has delivered us from temptations, sore trials, and heart aches we may never know.

C. We are added to Heaven's dwellings.

-John 14:2 - "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

1. Jesus said "I go to prepare a place .

-That preparation included the suffering of the cross, the grave, his burial and his soul suffering in hell, - His body wasn't just sitting there in a grave, in tomb.

-The scriptures tell us, he spent three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. - That is where hell is located. Jesus suffered hell for you and me.

-Jesus tells us about hell in reference to those who are in hell, he says in Mark chapter 9 in verses 44, 46, & 48:

^{Worm}
"Where their dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."

-Then in Psalm 22, which is Messianic Psalm which speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ's suffering, Jesus says concerning Himself in verse 6:

"But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people."

-That preparation not only included the cross, the grave but also the resurrection and the ascension.

-The Apostle John, further describes the Christian's future dwelling place in Revelation 21:2 - **"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."**

-It is described as a place with no death, no tears, no sorrow, no sin
-It is a place with ~~with~~ 12 gates of pearl, a street of gold,
It is a place with no need of sun or moon because the **"Lamb is the light thereof."**

-Each one of us is promised at least on mansion. - Amen!!!!

2. Blessed thought. Our loved ones who died in the Lord, have gone to Paradise.

3. One day I shall dwell in a new body, a new heaven.

4. Praise God, for his addition.

5. So, the cross adds on to heaven
• we are added to the family of God
"we are added to heaven's dwellings"
"protection of heaven"

III. THE CROSS DIVIDES ONE FROM THE WORLD.

Jesus told us that he came not to give peace but division:

-Luke 12:51: **"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:"**

The cross divides one from the world

A. **Because we are a new creature.**

II Cor. 5:17 - "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

1. We are not just "overhauled", but made new.

2. This new creature is as different as night and day.

3. We were in the kingdom of darkness now in the kingdom of light, life, and joy.

The cross divides one from the world.

B. **Because of new habitation.**

1. Described this way: **"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." Colossians 3:3**

2. The world, nor the devil himself can find, understand nor appreciate the life that is hidden in God. Hidden, ~~protected~~ ^{protected} in cleft of the Rock.

C. Because of a new Occupant.

-I John 4:4: "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

1. Ye are of God, little children and have overcome them. (Those who are against Christ).

2. His Son is with us is greater than the devil.

-Jesus said in John 16:33 - "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

D. Not only a present spiritual division from the world but a future physical division from the world at the rapture: - *from the Great Tribulation to come*

SEE I Thess. 4:13-18.

-Thank God for the cross dividing us from this world -

* **LASTLY,**

IV. THE CROSS MULTIPLES ONE'S TREASURES AND PLEASURES AND BLESSINGS.

1. -One ^{of} my favorite verses in the Bible is Psalm 68:19: **"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation."**

-Jesus not only saves us which is the greatest gift of all, but he doesn't stop there, he loads us daily with benefits. - Amen. What a fringe benefit package.

2. When a person is saved, believes on finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary to save them and nothing else, then person receives everything new.

- new friends: the saints
- new family- child of God, family of God
- new school - the scriptures
- new teacher - the Holy Spirit
- new earthly leader - the pastor
- new meeting place: - the sanctuary.

-Jesus said in Matthew 19:29 - "And every one that hath forsaken houses, ^{of} ~~pr~~ brethen, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."

3. Because of the cross we have a greater relationship, based on sonship alone:

Romans 8:17 tells us "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God,....."

-As children of God we have an acquired inheritance (reward) metioned in

SEE I Peter 1:4 - READ: Notice ^{it} ~~fadeth~~, not ^{away} ~~away~~, reserved in heaven for you.

-So, we see the cross of Christ multiples a Chritian's treasures and pleasures, and blessings.

CONCLUSION:

This morning we have looked at the Arithmetic of the Cross;

We have see that:

- *THE CROSS SUBTRACTS ONE FROM HELL
- *THE CROSS ADDS ONE TO HEAVEN
- *THE CROSS DIVIDES ONE FROM THE WORLD
- *THE CROSS MULTIPLES ONE'S TREASURES, PLEASURES, AND BLESSINGS.

PLEA AND PRAY