

### **Significance of the Cross.**

The authors of the gospels tell us that the Lord Jesus spoke of the cross before His death (**Matt. 10:38; Mark 10:21; Luke 14:27**) as a symbol of the necessity of full commitment (even unto death) for those who would be His disciples. But the major significance of the cross after Jesus' death and resurrection is its use as a symbol of Jesus' willingness to suffer for our sins (**Phil. 2:8; Heb. 12:2**) so that we might be reconciled (**2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 1:20**) to God and know His peace (**Eph. 2:16**).

Thus the cross symbolizes the glory of the Christian gospel (**1 Cor. 1:17**): the fact that through this offensive means of death (**1 Cor. 1:23; Gal. 5:11**), the debt of sin against us was "nailed to the cross" (**Col. 2:14**), and we, having "been crucified with Christ" (**Gal. 2:20**), have been freed from sin and death and made alive to God (**Rom. 6:6–11**).

The cross, then, is the symbol of **Jesus' love, God's power to save**, and the thankful believer's unreserved commitment to Christian discipleship. To those who know the salvation that Christ gained for us through His death, it is a "wondrous cross" indeed.

# **Union with Christ**

The Holy Bible,  
**New King James Version,**  
(Nashville, Tennessee:  
Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

**T**his booklet has been compiled from the new Topical Textbook, and the Bible extracts taken from the references mentioned in the Bible. I hope that this may become easier for you to find out His message relating to this Topic directly from the Bible, and how you could apply this to your personal life according to the world around you and your own circumstances.

*Believing* in the message and without doubt, one begins to realize how from the beginning of the Bible until the end, God does give us the same message, and no matter how we try to interpret it, the essence and core of our explanation comes directly from the His Word.

We will miss out on the issues relating to these extracts but I trust that these extracts will lead you to further study these circumstances and story leading to these messages.

This has been my Way of discovery, from my own personal decision to find out more about my Creator and what He wants of me. Through His Word He has revealed many insights that have excited me to keep searching for more, and this has now become a daily habit for me.

Best wishes in your discovery, through your own and personal commitment!

***Enjoy your Day!***

... through Jesus Christ our saviour!

Henrique Martins

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**... Husband and wife**

*Ephesians 5:25-32*

<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, <sup>26</sup>that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup>that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup> So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. <sup>30</sup> For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

*1 Peter 2:4-6*

<sup>4</sup> Coming to Him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious, <sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,

<sup>1</sup> **“Behold, I lay in Zion**

**A chief cornerstone, elect, precious,  
And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”**

**... Body and members**

*1 Corinthians 12:12,27*

<sup>12</sup>For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. <sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

*Ephesians 5:30*

<sup>30</sup>For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

**from New Topical Textbook**

**Union with Christ. . .**

1. As Head of the Church. **Eph 1:22,23; 4:15,16; Col 1:18.**
2. Christ prayed that all saints might have. **Joh 17:21,23.**
3. **Described as**
  - a. Christ being in us. **Eph 3:17; Col 1:27.**
  - b. Our being in Christ. **2Co 12:2; 1Jo 5:20.**
4. Includes union with the Father. **Joh 17:21; 1Jo 2:24.**
5. Is of God. **1Co 1:30.**
6. **Maintained by**
  - a. Faith. **Ga 2:20; Eph 3:17.**
  - b. Abiding in him. **Joh 15:4,7.**
  - c. His word abiding in us. **Joh 15:7; 1Jo 2:24; 2Jo 1:9.**
  - d. Feeding on him. **Joh 6:56.**
  - e. Obeying him. **1Jo 3:24.**
7. The Holy Spirit witnesses. **1Jo 3:24.**
8. The gift of the Holy Spirit is an evidence of. **1Jo 4:13.**
9. **Saints**
  - a. Have, in mind. **1Co 2:16; Php 2:5.**
  - b. Have, in spirit. **1Co 6:17.**
  - c. Have, in love. **Song 2:16; 7:10.**
  - d. Have, in sufferings. **Php 3:10; 2Ti 2:12.**
  - e. Have, in his death. **Ro 6:3-8; Ga 2:20.**
  - f. Have assurance of. **Joh 14:20.**
  - g. Enjoy, in the Lord’s supper. **1Co 10:16,17.**
  - h. Identified with Christ by. **Mt 25:40,45;**



**... Answers to prayer**

John 15:7

<sup>7</sup>“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

**They who have, ought to walk as he walked**

<sup>1</sup>John 2:6

<sup>6</sup>He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

**False teachers have not**

Colossians 2:18,19

<sup>18</sup>Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, <sup>19</sup>and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

**Is indissoluble**

Romans 8:35

<sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**As Head of the Church**

Ephesians 1:22,23

<sup>22</sup>And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, <sup>23</sup>which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 4:15,16

<sup>15</sup>but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

Colossians 1:18

<sup>18</sup>And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

**Christ prayed that all saints might have**

John 17:21,23

<sup>21</sup>“that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. <sup>23</sup>“I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent

Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

## **Described as. . .**

### **. . . Christ being in us**

*Ephesians 3:17*

<sup>17</sup>that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

*Colossians 1:27*

<sup>27</sup>To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

### **. . . our being in Christ**

*2 Corinthians 12:2*

<sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

*1 John 5:20*

<sup>20</sup>And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

### **. . . Being created anew**

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

### **. . . The Spirit alive to righteousness**

*Romans 8:10*

<sup>10</sup>And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

### **. . . Confidence at His coming**

*1 John 2:28*

<sup>28</sup>And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

### **. . . Abundant fruitfulness**

*John 15:5*

<sup>5</sup>**"I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**

who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

## Beneficial results of . . .

### . . . Righteousness imputed

2 Corinthians 5:21

<sup>21</sup>For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Philippians 3:9

<sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

### . . . Freedom from condemnation

Romans 8:1

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

### . . . Freedom from dominion of sin

1 John 3:6

<sup>6</sup>Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

## Includes union with the Father

John 17:21

<sup>21</sup>“that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

1 John 2:24

<sup>24</sup>Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

## Is of God

1 Corinthians 1:30

<sup>30</sup>But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption –

## Maintained by . . .

### . . . Faith

Galatians 2:20

<sup>20</sup>“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**... Abiding in Him**

John 15:4,7

<sup>4</sup>“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. <sup>7</sup>“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

**... His Word abiding in us**

John 15:7

<sup>7</sup>“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

<sup>1</sup> John 2:24

<sup>24</sup>Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

**... Feeding on Him**

John 6:56

<sup>56</sup>“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

**... Are complete through**

Colossians 2:10

<sup>10</sup> and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

**... Exhorted to maintain**

John 15:4

<sup>4</sup>“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

Acts 11:23

<sup>23</sup>When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.

Colossians 2:7

<sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

**Necessary to fruitfulness**

John 15:4,5

<sup>4</sup>“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup>“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He

**... Enjoy, in the Lord's supper**

*1 Corinthians 10:16,17*

<sup>16</sup>The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup>For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

**... Identified with Christ by**

*Matthew 25:40,45*

<sup>40</sup> **“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’** <sup>45</sup> **“Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’**

*Acts 9:4*

<sup>4</sup>Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, **“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”**

*Acts 8:1*

<sup>1</sup>Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

**... Obeying Him**

*1 John 3:24*

<sup>24</sup>Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

**The Holy Spirit witnesses**

*1 John 3:24*

<sup>24</sup>Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

**The gift of the Holy Spirit is an evidence of**

*1 John 4:13*

<sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

**Saints ...**

**... Have in mind**

*1 Corinthians 2:16*

<sup>16</sup> For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

*Philippians 2:5*

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

**... Have, in Spirit**

*1 Corinthians 6:17*

<sup>17</sup> But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

**... Have, in love**

*Song of Solomon 2:16*

<sup>16</sup> My beloved *is* mine, and I *am* his. He feeds *his* flock among the lilies.  
(TO HER BELOVED)

*Song of Solomon 7:10*

<sup>10</sup> I *am* my beloved's, And his desire *is* toward me.

**... Have, in sufferings**

*Philippians 3:10*

<sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

*2 Timothy 2:12*

<sup>12</sup> If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

**... Have, in His death**

*Romans 6:3-8*

<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. <sup>7</sup> For he who has died has been freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

*Galatians 2:20*

<sup>20</sup> "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**... Have assurance of**

*John 14:20*

<sup>20</sup> "At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.