

Colossians - Chapter 2
“What Satan Hates the Most – Part 2”
Colossians 2:15

Verse 15

1. When this verse talks about Christ spoiling principalities and powers, it is speaking of Christ's victory over Satan and his demonic host.
 - When you “spoil” somebody, you take away from them what is theirs. It means “to seize by force.” All the weaponry of Satan, Christ took away from him.
2. Satan thought he was winning the victory that day when he instigated the mob to take Christ and crucify Him, but he was simply playing right into the hands of God Almighty. The cross would be the very thing that would ensure his defeat.
3. There was a hidden wisdom in the cross-work of Christ that God didn't tell anybody. God kept it secret. There are veiled references to the cross in a few Old Testament passages, but the full extent of what Christ would do, and what would be accomplished, and what would be made possible because of the cross, God kept a secret. 1 Corinthians 2:7-8
4. Jesus Christ paid the ransom price for all of mankind (Jews and Gentiles) on the cross. In due time, God revealed the full extent of the cross-work to Paul. Paul then began to make it known, preach it, and write about it. 1 Timothy 2:6-7
5. Satan was smart enough to know that God's law formally, in handwriting, put the seal of God's condemnation on mankind. It demanded death - not only physical death, but a second death of the soul and spirit in hell. Satan was the originator of sin and death and is said to have had the power of death (Hebrews 2:14). Satan thought, “If I can use my power of death to also kill the Messiah, I will be assured of ultimate victory.”
 - Satan was thinking, “If I can put Christ to death, I will show Him to be a sinner because *‘the wages of sin is death.’*” Little did he know that Christ would actually pay sin's payment for all of mankind on the cross.
 - In resurrection, Christ would defeat death, and would prove that His death on the cross was not for His own sin, but for the sin of mankind.
6. Satan saw Christ die on the cross and thought, “I've won!” But to Satan's chagrin, the cross changed everything. The cross took the law out of the way, paid the price for sin, and made possible the reconciliation of not only mankind, but the entire earth and universe. Because a final, once-for-all sacrifice had been made for sin, the heavens and earth could be purged of sin and reconciled under the authority of Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus Christ, through death, destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the devil (Hebrews 2:14). Christ spoiled Satan; he stripped him of his power (1 John 3:8). Christ crushed the head of that old serpent, the devil. Genesis 3:15

- By Christ taking the law out of the way, no longer can Satan use the law to accuse and condemn us. By making a full payment for sin, God can now legally and justly take sinners and justify them by faith in His blood, and reconcile them eternally.
 - Do you see now why Paul said, “*God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...*”? Galatians 6:14
7. The cross is the focal point of human history. The resurrection was essential, but was a foregone conclusion. How could death hold down the “*resurrection, and the life*”? Christ is the very embodiment of life.
 - But to think that “*the resurrection, and the life*” would **die** - wow, now that is amazing!
 8. He made a complete and satisfactory payment for the sins of the world! Satan instigated the very thing that would ensure his complete defeat. Satan thought he was extremely smart, but the cross showed him to be a fool.
 9. Notice that verse 15 said that Christ “*made a shew of them openly...*” Christ held Satan up to public shame, ridicule, and humiliation. All of Satan’s dreams, goals, and aspirations were stripped away at the cross.
 10. Think about it. Through the cross-work:
 - Christ took care of your sin. 1:14, 2:13
 - Christ took away the great condemner – the law. 2:14
 - Christ took away the great accuser and enemy, Satan (whose scheme was to damn your soul and take your life). 2:15
 11. The cross stripped Satan of everything. It took all his ammo and rendered him powerless. Now the only power he has is what people give him. But his days are numbered.
 12. On the cross, Christ held him up and showed, “Not only are you not real powerful, you aren’t real smart either!”
 - This is why Satan hates the message of the cross so much and seeks to blind people from its message. Jesus' cross-work spoiled Satan and his host, made a show of them openly, and Christ triumphed over them in it.
 13. This is also why Satan hates Paul and his message. This is why Satan wants to turn people away from understanding the mystery of Christ revealed to Paul. Paul's gospel reveals the unsearchable riches of Christ (Ephesians 3:9) and His cross-work.
 14. Oh, how Satan loves it when religions want to run back to the kingdom gospel in Matthew through John, and oh, how he loves it when they run to Peter on Pentecost. Why? While the facts of the cross are there, there is no message of the finished, spiritual work of the cross there.
 - In Matthew through John, when Jesus began to explain to the twelve about the fact that He must go to Jerusalem and die, they didn't understand it at all. Luke 18:31-34
 - Even after He died, they weren't going around rejoicing that a full payment for sin had been made. They were devastated that Christ had died.

- Even though there were veiled references to the facts of the cross in the Old Testament, the wisdom and ramifications of the cross had been hidden. They were looking for a conquering Messiah to rule and reign, as was all of Israel.
- They did not preach the cross-work of Christ before or after the crucifixion in Matthew through John.
- Hindsight is 20/20. With the cross-work already accomplished and revealed, we can look back at Old Testament prophecies and veiled allusions about the cross and see it with clarity, but those before the cross could not do this.
- Do we see Peter or anybody else preaching the cross-work of Christ on the day of Pentecost, or anywhere in the first seven chapters of Acts? Is the cross preached by Peter, the twelve, and Stephen as a blessed accomplishment?
 - Peter preached the cross as a shameful act by Israel that needed to be repented of. He preached Christ as the **Victim** (Acts 2:22-23, 2:36-38, 3:13-19, 4:10, 7:51-52). Never will you see Peter preaching to place your faith in the shed blood and atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross. You will not see Peter preaching anything even close to Romans 3:21-28 or Romans 5:6-11.
 - Peter knew that because of Christ's resurrection, the repentant flock of Israel could be granted forgiveness of sins nationally when Christ returned, but never does he preach it on the basis of Christ's work on the cross. It is on the basis that Christ rose from the dead and is coming back to earth. Acts 3:19-20
 - Paul, on the other hand, preaches the cross as a blessed work in which Christ is not the **Victim**, but the **Victor**! Paul said in Colossians 2:15, "...*triumphing over them in it.*"
 - **Illustration of newsletter from Church of Christ:** Christ invites you to be a part of His kingdom. How? Repent and be baptized in water. There is no mention or explanation of the cross-work whatsoever. Do you see why Satan loves it when religion goes back to the gospels or to the early Acts time period for their message? The blessed work of the cross is absent.
 - **Illustration of Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*:** The first seven days are supposed to be evangelistic and lead people to salvation. But, there is one problem. There is no explanation of the cross-work. Satan loves this. He laughs with glee.
 - **Illustration of the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*:** It was supposed to bring worldwide revival. Why didn't it? For one simple reason – it left out Paul's gospel; it never explained the true reason for the cross, or what was being accomplished spiritually on the cross. Unless a lost person would have had a saved person to explain this to them, they would have left either confused, feeling sorry for Christ, or feeling mad at the mob that "martyred" Him. It

gave factual information about what happened, as Peter did, but it never explained the victory that was won on the cross and all that was made possible through His cross-work. A person already saved would naturally be moved, because we know all that was going on, but a lost person would just leave confused. It's Paul's gospel that reveals the **victory** of the cross!

- The power of the gospel to save and to change lives is not found in the mere **facts** of the cross, but in the glorious information that Christ gave Paul about what was **accomplished** on that cross for sinners.
- Why didn't Peter and the twelve preach the cross-work of Christ? For a very simple reason - it wasn't revealed yet. Christ would reveal all this information later to Paul, and that is why he calls it "*my gospel*" and tells us clearly that he didn't get it from Peter or any other man, but directly from Christ. Galatians 1
- Through Paul, Peter would later understand some of the spiritual ramifications of the cross and what was accomplished.
1 Peter 2:24, 3:18; 2 Peter 3:15-16

15. It isn't until Paul that we receive the revelation of the cross-work and what was accomplished, and the victory that was won that day. Now we can sing, "O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He sought me and He bought me with His redeeming blood."