

THE POWER OF THE CROSS

ROMANS 3:25-31

- The cross of Christ affects those who trust in Jesus—by giving us eternal life.
- The cross of Christ affected Satan—by breaking his power and dominion over the earth.
- The cross of Christ obviously affected Jesus Himself—by producing His suffering.
- The cross of Christ also affected the whole Trinity—God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, and God the Son—by temporarily breaking their fellowship.

1. The Cross Reveals God's Absolute Righteousness v. 25-26

- Don't confuse mankind's understanding of Right-ness with God's perfect Righteousness. All human systems are man-centered and appease the standards of man.
- God's justice and grace are on a perfect and infinitely grander scale than human wisdom can perceive or comprehend.
 - Because of His **PERFECT JUSTICE**, no sin will ever go unpunished.
 - Yet because of His **PERFECT GRACE**, no sin is beyond forgiveness.

2. The Cross Exalts God's Grace v. 27-28

What, then, is this **SAVING FAITH AND GRACE** that is completely apart from works?

First we will consider some things that neither prove nor disprove true faith.

- **First**, is visible outward morality.
- **Second**, intellectual knowledge of God's truth is not necessarily a proof of saving faith.
- **Third**, religious involvement or activity is not necessarily a proof of saving faith.

More Not-So-Positive Proofs

- **Fourth**, active ministry in a church is no certain proof of saving faith.
- **Fifth**, even conviction of sin does not necessarily demonstrate saving faith.
- **Sixth**, your own personal feeling of assurance of salvation is not an infallible mark of saving faith.
- **Seventh**, the experience of a past “decision” for Christ does not necessarily prove saving faith.

OK, SO WHAT ARE SOME PROOFS WE CAN REST IN?

There Are, However, Some Reliable Proofs of Saving Faith

- The **first** reliable evidence of saving faith is love for God.
- A **second** reliable evidence of saving faith is repentance from sin and the hatred of it that always accompanies true contrition.
- A **third** reliable evidence of saving faith is genuine humility.
- A **fourth** reliable evidence of saving faith is devotion to God's glory.

More Reliable Proofs

- A **fifth** reliable evidence of saving faith is prayer.
- A **sixth** mark of saving faith is selfless love, not only for God, as in the first mark, but also for other people, especially fellow Christians.
- A **seventh** mark of saving faith is separation from the world.
- An **eighth** mark of saving faith is spiritual growth.
- The **ninth** mark of saving faith is obedient living.

Although no one is saved by his good works, those who are truly saved will produce good works.

3. The Cross Reveals God's Universal Love for All

- There is only *one* God—the Creator, Sustainer, and Lord of the entire universe.
- There are no “lesser gods,” only false gods that have been created by man’s imagination, and often are demonically inspired and empowered.
- If there is only one God, then He has to be **THE GOD OF GENTILES AS WELL AS OF JEWS.**
- If there is only one God, He has to be the God of everyone everywhere.

4. The Cross Confirms God's Law

If men have never been saved on any other basis than faith in God, was the law useless, was it always useless?

The cross establishes or confirms the law in three ways:

- **First**, it establishes the law by paying the penalty of death.
- **Second**, the cross establishes the law by fulfilling its purpose of driving men to faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Third**, the cross establishes the law by providing believers the potential for fulfilling it.

OH, THE POWER OF THE CROSS!