

# POWER IN THE CROSS

**ILLUSTRATED SERMON**  
◆ Large Wooden Cross  
◆ 8 1/2 X 11 paper with sins listed  
◆ Hammer and nails

**(How The Cross Has Defeated Satan And Sealed His Doom)  
Colossians 2:14-15**



## **4 WORDS OF POWER**

- ◆ Declaration
- ◆ Cancellation
- ◆ Demonstration
- ◆ Celebration

**“And that Jesus might reconcile both unto God in one body *by the cross*,  
having slain the enmity thereby” (Ephesians 2:16)**

**Bill Kirk, Pastor**

# “POWER IN THE CROSS”

**Text:** Colossians 2:13-15

**Subject:** How The Cross Has Defeated Satan – And Sealed His Doom Once And For All!

## Introduction

- #1. The founder of the Colosse church was Epaphras, one of Paul’s converts during Paul’s ministry in Ephesus. (1:7; 4:12-13)
- #2. Paul had never been to Colosse personally (2:1), but now writes to the church while imprisoned in Rome.
- #3. Paul’s objective was to warn against the heresy that threatened the doctrinal purity of the Colossian church.
- #4. The false doctrine or heresy that Paul had to warn the believers about was gnosticism, (a combination of oriental mysticism and Jewish legalism:)
  - ◆ Gnostics believed that someone could reach “spiritual perfection” out of a close union with God.
  - ◆ They believed that angelic beings ruled heavenly bodies (a form of astrology).
  - ◆ They believed that the rite of circumcision would increase spiritual development. (legalism) (2:11)
  - ◆ They believed and promoted asceticism, (2:16, 20-23) which was isolating yourself from the world and good provisions).
  - ◆ These “deeper life” teachers claimed to lift Christianity to a higher level (through legalism, philosophy, astrology, mysticism and asceticism).

(And Paul Hits It Head On)

He tells us in Colossians:

- #1. That we are complete in Jesus because Jesus has fulfilled the demands of the Law. (2:10, 14 – 17)
- #2. That Jesus alone is the Preeminent One. (1:18 - 3:11)
- #3. That Jesus has settled the sin question in the cross. (1:20)
- #4. That Jesus has defeated satan’s forces of evil once and for all. (2:15)

**Question:** Pastor, why does satan hate the cross so much?

**Question:** And, how does the cross give us faith to march forward and do damage to satan’s kingdom?

(Today: 4 Words Of Power In The Cross)

## I. Word #1 Is “Declaration”

Colossians 2:13 – “And you being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses” (How?)

(V. 14) – “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us”.

**Question:** What was the “handwriting of ordinances” against us?

**Answer:** The “handwriting of ordinances” refers to the Law with all of it’s rites, rules, obligations, ceremonies, observances and requirements.

**Question:** How was Law against us?

**Answer:** It was against us because no one could meet its righteous demands.

- ◆ The Law was against our peace and joy.
- ◆ The Law was against our clear conscience.
- ◆ The Law was against our access to God.
- ◆ The Law was against us because it declared us “guilty”.

**Question:** So what did Jesus do to the Law that pronounced us guilty?

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**Answer:** (V. 14) – He “**Blotted Out**” the Law!

**Fact:** In Paul’s day, financial records were kept on parchments.

**Fact:** These parchments could be washed off or Blotted Out”:

- ◆ So Jesus has washed away the record against us.
- ◆ So Jesus has washed away the debt we owed.
- ◆ So Jesus has silenced the voice of accusation.
- ◆ So Jesus has satisfied God’s just demand.
- ◆ So Jesus has “**Blotted Out**” the very Law that revealed my sin.

**Question:** What is our declaration?

**Answer:** (V. 13), “Having forgiven you all trespasses” **Means:**

- ◆ God has declared (in Jesus) that you have been forgiven of every sin ever committed,
- ◆ And now we can declare with confidence, “I am covered, covered, covered by His Blood”

## II. Word #2 Is “Cancellation”

Colossians 2:14, “And took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross”.

**Question:** What did Jesus do to the Law that testified against us?

**Answer:** (V. 14) “**Nailed it to His Cross**”

**Question:** What does Paul mean, by Jesus nailing the Law to the cross?

**Answer:** The Law was a legal document (and) the Law had legal demands.

### (But One Day Jesus)

- ◆ Nailed my guilt and yours to His Cross.
- ◆ He nailed my condemnation to His own Cross.

### Illustration

- ◆ Paul is referring here to the ancient method by which a bond or obligation was cancelled.
- ◆ It was cancelled by driving a nail through it and affixing it to a wooden post.

### Illustration

- ◆ Years ago banks used a sharp instrument to make a hole through checks that cleared.
- ◆ (Why?) To furnish the bank teller the evidence that the bill had been paid.

### (So In Like Manner)

- ◆ Jesus has cancelled the bond (or debt) against us when He Himself was nailed to the cross.

### (In Other Words)

- ◆ Satan didn’t know that when he had Jesus nailed to the cross...
- ◆ ...Christ was nailing our debt to His cross, thereby canceling our obligation and paying our debt in full.

### (In Other Words)

- ◆ There is power in the cross to answer satan’s accusation against you.
- ◆ And this power is your power because the cross gives you access to God who has cancelled sins debt against you.

### (Illustrated Sermon Begins)

#1. Take the long vertical wooden beam of the cross (and lay it down).

#2. Take the cross beam and carry it while preaching.

#3. Name the sins that haunt so many people, (write them down on 8 ½ x 11 sheets of paper).

#4. Nail them all (one by one on the cross-beam).

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#5. Take the covered cross – beam and nail it “once and for all” to the vertical beam.

◆ And rejoice (that in the cross) God has cancelled all sin you’ve ever committed!!!

### #1. Declaration #2. Cancellation

### III. Word #3 Is “Demonstration” (Colossians 2:15)

“And having spoiled principalities and powers”

#1. The cross declares the law has been satisfied.

#2. The cross has cancelled my sin in Christ’s Body.

But #3. How can I overcome temptation and live free from sin’s dominion while on the earth?

◆ (V. 15) Jesus (at the cross) has “**spoiled principalities and powers**”

Question: Pastor, what does this mean to me?

Answer: The word “**spoiled**” means:

#1. Subdued

#2. Conquered

#3. Disarmed

Question: What has Jesus subdued, conquered and disarmed?

Answer: (V. 15) “**Principalities and Powers**”

Question: What are “principalities and powers”

Answer: #1. Evil spirits that once ruled us.

#2. Evil powers that once enslaved us.

#3. Evil tendencies that once held us captive.

#4. Evil, hellish, satanic influences that (before conversion) dominated and manipulated our behavior!

Question: So what has Jesus done at the cross?

Answer: Subdued, conquered and disarmed satan of every (and any) legal authority to rule your life.

#### (In Other Words)

◆ The cross represents the demonstration of God’s power in crushing satan’s head, (thus allowing you to demonstrate a Christian life that glorifies God!!!)

#1. Declaration

#2. Cancellation

#3. Demonstration

### IV. Word #4 Is “Celebration” (Colossians 2:15)

“...He made a show of them openly triumphing over them in it”.

Question: Pastor, why do we celebrate today?

Answer: Because of what (v. 15) declares:

◆ The word “**triumph**” in (v. 15) refers to a Roman General in Paul’s day.

◆ When a general won a great victory by gaining new territory for Rome (or taking captives) he was honored by an official parade.

◆ The parade was known as “**The Roman Triumph**”

#### (Why Such A Big Deal?)

◆ Because the general would openly show his prisoners captured in battle.

◆ The general would reveal his triumph over the enemy.

◆ The general would celebrate (and publicly disgrace the enemy just defeated).

#### (In Other Words)

#1. Jesus (in the cross) has triumphed over satan, sin, death, hell and the grave.

#2. You and I have the legal right to celebrate because our weapons (Prayer, The Name, The Word, The Blood, The Spirit), are greater than satan’s weapons and demonic strongholds that enslave the unsaved.

**(So What Now Pastor?)**

- ◆ What now is – we obey God’s command in James 4:7:  
“Stand up to the devil and he will turn and run from you”.

**Question:** What does it mean to “stand up to the devil”?

**Answer:** The Greek word for “stand” means: “To oppose”

- ◆ This is a command to you and me, (the church) to literally stand on the battlefield and oppose satan by enforcing the Cross of Jesus.
- ◆ It means to fight in prayer on the basis of Christ’s victory.

**(In Other Words)**

- #1. As God planned for Jesus to defeat satan at Calvary, (so God intends you to enforce His victory in militant prayer)!!!
- #2. Militant prayer is the spirit of David when he ran towards Goliath to do battle.

**(Jesus Said In Matthew 11:12)**

“The kingdom of God suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force”

**(In Other Words)**

An effective hell shaking spirit of prayer will:

- #1...Breathe the righteous indignation of God against satan’s intentions.
- #3...Demolish enemy strongholds that are blinding the unsaved.
- #4...Confront every opposition to the work of God.
- #5...Thrust aside the mountains that satan has built up against God’s will.
- #6...Take the initiative, (be offensive) and allow heaven to enforce the victory of the cross – in prayer!!!

**Question:** How many of you know someone who needs to be saved (and change masters)?

**(Arthur Matthews Writes This:)**

“In any situation where satan dominates and threatens, God looks for men and women through whom He may declare war on the enemy. God purposes that through militant prayer, satan be served notice to back up, pack up and clear out”.

**AMEN!**

Bill Kirk, Pastor