

OUR GUILT OF SIN, NAILED TO THE CROSS

I. [Acts 3:17-21](#) [Colossians 2:13-14](#)

A. Peter and John were headed towards the Temple to pray. They encounter a crippled man begging for alms. He'd been lame since birth. Peter and John look at the man and Peter famously declares, "*Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!*" The man is instantly healed and starts walking and leaping and praising God! A stunned crowd gathers as you might imagine and it's the perfect setting to preach the Gospel. Peter lets "the lion out of the cage." Here's some of his declarations, paraphrased:

- 1) This miracle is not because of our power and godliness--Jesus is responsible and all the credit belongs to Him...
- 2) This miracle has been done by the same Jesus whom you delivered over to Pilate to be crucified...
- 3) By delivering Him over, you disowned and rejected the Holy One, the Righteous One, the Christ, the Son of God, the long-promised Messiah, our Savior...
- 4) You killed the *Author of Life* and instead set a murderer (*Barabbas*) free...
- 5) But God raised up His Son from the dead and He's not only alive and well, He's the One who healed this man who's been lame since birth...

B. [Acts 3:17-21](#) (ESV) is the continuation of Peter's message: *17 And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. 19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, (OVs: wiped out; wiped away!) 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets long ago.*

C. Jesus death on the cross atoned for our sins. How? Our sin was imputed to Him; His righteousness is imputed to us. (2 Cor. 5:21) *The Great Exchange!* What would cause God to do such a thing? What would cause Jesus to obey His Father and undergo such a horrible crucifixion? Love for you beyond all measure!

D. What sins does this include? Here's a handful, a shortlist, if you're taking notes: Rebellion against God; idolatry; pride & selfishness; arrogance & haughtiness, immorality in all it's varied forms; self-righteousness; hypocrisy; lying & cheating, anger, resentment, bitterness, malice, unforgiveness; hatred, violence, & murder; slander & gossip; drunkenness & addictions; jealousy & envy & coveting; greed & stinginess; murmuring & complaining; worry, anxiety & blatant distrust of God; dabbling in the occult; worshiping idols, false gods, & Satan; and everything in-between! Jesus takes these sins to the cross and dies for them! All of them!

E. When Oliver Cromwell ruled England between 1653–1658, he had a soldier sentenced to death. His execution was to take place when the evening bell rang to signal curfew. But the soldier's fiancé, knowing her man's fate, raced to the top of the belfry and latched herself to the clapper of the bell. So when curfew came, and the rope was pulled, the bell did not ring. The woman was discovered and taken before Cromwell. Her arms were bloody and bruised and she wept in desperation. Cromwell was touched by her love and devotion, and famously said to the woman, "*Your lover shall live because of your sacrifice. Curfew shall not ring tonight!*" What Christ has done for us makes this incident seem miniscule...

F. Sometimes we need a visual to aid our understanding. The sacraments help us do that. Baptism is clearly a visual. Communion is likewise a visual. Like John Calvin said: "*The sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are visible words.*" As you prepare your Communion elements, they're meant to be *visible words*, an emblematic reminder of what Christ has accomplished for us on the cross. I pray they do just that this morning...

G. But I want to give you yet another visual this morning as I read our next Scripture, Colossians 2:13-14. Fix your eyes on the cross to my left. Listen and watch as I read from the Amplified Classic Version...

H. Colossians 2:13-14 (AMPC) is clearer than a bell: **13** *And you who were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh (your sensuality, your sinful carnal nature), [God] brought to life together with [Christ], having [freely] forgiven us all our transgressions,* **14** *having cancelled and blotted out and wiped away the handwriting of the note (bond) with its legal decrees and demands which was in force and stood against us (hostile to us). This [note with its regulations, decrees, and demands] He set aside and cleared completely out of our way by nailing it to [His] cross.* (The guilt of your sin was written on that note and it was nailed to the cross where it all was canceled, blotted out, and totally wiped away!)

I. You were in deep debt because of your sin, an indebtedness that you could never afford to pay. But Christ paid it all, paid it in full, by taking your sins to the cross! *Though your sins were as scarlet, He has made them white as snow! As far as the east is from the west, so far has He separated you from your sins! He has forgiven our iniquities and remembers our sins no more! Through Christ, your sins have been cast into the depths of the sea!* Because of Jesus' wounds, you have been healed from your leprosy of sin! Not only will curfew not ring for you tonight, it will never ever ring for you! The Bread & Cup remind us!

* Pray & Officiate Communion...

* Close with the Song, "*You Are The One*" by Keith Green...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Acts 3:17-21 \(ESV\)](#)

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times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, **21** whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets long ago.

Colossians 2:13-14 (AMPC)

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Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight

During the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, sentenced a soldier to be shot for his crimes. The execution was to take place at the ringing of the evening curfew bell. However, the bell did not sound. The soldier's fiancé had climbed into the belfry and clung to the great clapper of the bell to prevent it from striking. When she was summoned by Cromwell to account for her actions, she wept as she showed him her bruised and bleeding hands. Cromwell's heart was touched and he said, "Your lover shall live because of your sacrifice. Curfew shall not ring tonight!"

- Our Daily Bread.

Video Clips & Important Articles

"Not What My Hands Have Done" by Horatius Bonar - Sung by Nathan Clark George

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26FQCAiOhxA>

God Drove A Nail Through Your Guilt - John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJXZSVaYk2Q>

"Nailed to the Cross" - Rend Collective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFLk6v7US3I>

The Great Exchange - Devotional by John Piper (Text & Audio)

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-great-exchange>

Scars, Cartwheels and God-Given Strength - Ruth Schroeter

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/scars-cartwheels-and-god-given-strength/>

Bonus Stuff

Isaiah 1:18 (ESV)

18 Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Isaiah 53:4-6 (ESV)

4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. **5** But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. **6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 61:10 (NIV)

10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of His righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Psalms 103:10-13 (ESV)

10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. **11** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; **12** as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. **13** As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.

Micah 7:18-19 (NIV)

18 Who is a God like You, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. **19** You will again have compassion on us; You will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Romans 5:6-8 (NIV)

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (ESV)

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- **6** and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not

your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Luke 23:18-25 (ESV)

18 But they all cried out together, "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas"--
19 a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. **20** Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, **21** but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify Him!" **22** A third time he said to them, "Why? What evil has He done? I have found in Him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release Him." **23** But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that He should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. **24** So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. **25** He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

Quote by John Calvin

"We observe here that Paul situates our righteousness not in ourselves but in Christ, and that righteousness is ours for no other reason than that we share in Christ, for in possessing him we possess along with him, all his riches."

- John Calvin, *Institutes*, 1541 edition.

Quote by Zacharias Ursinus

"God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, as if I had been perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me."

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"If some of you plume yourselves with the notion that you are righteous, I pray God to pluck those fine feathers off you and make you see yourselves, for if you never see your own nothingness, you will never understand Christ's all-sufficiency. Unless you are pulled down, Christ will never lift you up."

Excerpt from *Your Father Loves You*

J.I. Packer

Martin Luther wrote: *"All the prophets did foresee in Spirit that Christ should become the greatest transgressor, murderer, adulterer, thief, rebel, blasphemer, etc., that ever was or could be in all the world. For He, being made a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world is not now an innocent person and without sins...but a sinner."* He was, of course, talking about the imputing of our wrongdoing to Christ as our substitute.

Luther continues: *"Our most merciful Father...sent His only Son into the world and laid upon Him...the sins of all men saying: Be thou Peter that denier; Paul that persecutor, blasphemer and cruel oppressor; David that adulterer; that sinner which did eat the apple in Paradise; that thief which hanged upon the cross; and briefly be thou the*

person which hath committed the sins of all men; see therefore that thou pay and satisfy for them. Here now comes the law and saith: I find Him a sinner...therefore let Him die upon the cross. And so he setteth upon Him and killeth Him. By this means the whole world is purged and cleansed from all sins."

The presentation of the death of Christ as the substitute exhibits the love of the cross more richly, fully, gloriously, and glowingly than any other account of it. Luther saw this and gloried in it. He once wrote to a friend: "*Learn to know Christ and Him crucified. Learn to sing to Him, and say, 'Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am Your sin. You have taken upon Yourself what is mine and given me what is Yours. You became what You were not, so that I might become what I was not.'*" What a great and wonderful exchange! Was there ever such love?

- James I. Packer, *Your Father Loves You*, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986.

Not What My Hands Have Done

by Horatius Bonar

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;
Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Your voice alone, O Lord, can speak to me of grace;
Your power alone, O Son of God, can all my sin erase.
No other work but Yours, no other blood will do;
No strength but that which is divine can bear me safely through.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.
Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to Thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest, And set my spirit free.

I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;
And with unfaltering lip and heart I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt; I bury in His tomb
Each thought of unbelief and fear, each lingering shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace; I trust His truth and might;
He calls me His, I call Him mine, My God, my joy and light.
'Tis He Who saveth me, and freely pardon gives;
I love because He loveth me, I live because He lives.