

# The Cross

## by Oswald Chambers

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*The Cross is the exhibition of the nature of God and the gateway to union with God, and it is the key to our identification with Jesus Christ.*

**Scripture:** Luke 18:31, John 12:32, Romans 5:12, Romans 6:6, Romans 6:9, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 10:14, 1 Peter 2:24

**Topics:** "The Cross", "Redemption"

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### Description

Oswald Chambers preaches about the profound significance of the Cross in the life of Jesus Christ and believers. He emphasizes that the Incarnation was for the purpose of Redemption, with the Cross being the center of Time and Eternity. Chambers highlights the necessity of identifying with the death of Jesus to be freed from sin and to experience the fullness of God's life. He stresses that the forgiveness of God is solely through the Death of Jesus Christ, not through our own efforts or repentance.

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### Transcript

"Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree." 1 Peter 2:24

"The Cross did not happen to Jesus: He came on purpose for it. He is 'the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.' The whole meaning of the Incarnation is the Cross. Beware of separating God manifest in the flesh from the Son becoming sin. The Incarnation was for the purpose of Redemption. God became incarnate for the purpose of putting away sin; not for the purpose of Self-realization. The Cross is the centre of Time and of Eternity, the answer to the enigmas of both.

"The Cross is not the cross of a man but the Cross of God, and the Cross of God can never be realized in human experience. The Cross is the exhibition of the nature of God, the gateway whereby any individual of the human race can enter into union with God. When we get to the Cross, we do not go through it; we abide in the life to which the Cross is the gateway.

"The centre of salvation is the Cross of Jesus, and the reason it is so easy to obtain salvation is because it cost God so much. " (April 6)

"Death hath no more dominion over Him . . . in that He liveth, He liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God." Romans 6:9-11

"Eternal life was the life which Jesus Christ exhibited on the human plane, and it is the same life, not a copy of it, which is manifested in our mortal flesh when we are born of God. Eternal life is not a gift from God, eternal life is the gift of God. The energy and the power which were manifested in Jesus will be manifested in us by the sheer sovereign grace of God when once we have made the moral decision about sin.

"Ye shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost"--not power as a gift from the Holy Ghost; the power is the Holy Ghost, not something which He imparts. The life that was in Jesus is made ours by means of his Cross when once we make the decision to be identified with Him. If it is difficult to get right with God, it is because we will not decide definitely about sin. Immediately we do decide, the full life of God comes in. Jesus came to give us endless supplies of life: 'that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.'... The only source of Life is the Lord Jesus Christ."

"The weakest saint can experience the power of the Deity of the Son of God if once he is willing to 'let go.' Any strand of our own energy in ourselves will blur the life of Jesus. We have to keep letting go, and slowly and surely the great full life of God will invade us in every part, and men will take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus." (April 12)

"I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me." John 12:32

"Very few of us have any understanding of the reason why Jesus Christ died. If sympathy is all that human beings need, then the Cross of Christ is a farce, there was no need for it. What the world needs is not 'a little bit of love,' but a surgical operation.

"When you are face to face with a soul in difficulty spiritually, remind yourself of Jesus Christ on the Cross. If that soul can get to God on any other line, then the Cross of Jesus Christ is unnecessary. If you can help others by your sympathy or understanding, you are a traitor to Jesus Christ. You have to keep your soul rightly related to God and pour out for others on His line, not pour out on the human line and ignore God. The great note to-day is amiable religiosity.

"The one thing we have to do is to exhibit Jesus Christ crucified, to lift Him up all the time. Every doctrine that is not imbedded in the Cross of Jesus will lead astray. If the worker himself believes in Jesus Christ and is banking on the Reality of Redemption, the people he talks to must be concerned. The thing that remains and deepens is the worker's simple relationship to Jesus Christ; his usefulness to God depends on that and that alone." (December 20)

"Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Romans 5:12

"The Bible does not say that God punished the human race for one man's sin; but that the disposition of sin, viz., my claim to my right to myself, entered into the human race by one man, and that another Man took on Him the sin of the human race and put it away (Heb. 9:26)--an infinitely profounder revelation. The disposition of sin is not immorality and wrong-doing, but the disposition of self-realization--I am my own god.

"This disposition may work out in decorous morality or in indecorous immorality, but it has the one basis, my claim to my right to myself. ... Sin is a thing I am born with and I cannot touch it; God touches sin in Redemption.

"In the Cross of Jesus Christ God redeemed the whole human race from the possibility of damnation through the heredity of sin. God nowhere holds a man responsible for having the heredity of sin. The condemnation is not that I am born with a heredity of sin, but if when I realize Jesus Christ came to deliver me from it, I refuse to let Him do so, from that moment I begin to get the seal of damnation. "And this is the judgment" (the critical moment) "that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light." (October 5)

"For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." Hebrews 10:14

"We trample the blood of the Son of God under foot if we think we are forgiven because we are sorry for our sins. The only explanation of the forgiveness of God and of the unfathomable depth of His forgetting, is the Death of Jesus Christ. Our repentance is merely the outcome of our personal realization of the Atonement which He has worked out for us. 'Christ Jesus. . . is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.' When we realize that Christ is made all this to us, the boundless joy of God begins; wherever the joy of God is not present, the death sentence is at work.

"It does not matter who or what we are, there is absolute reinstatement into God by the death of Jesus Christ and by no other way, not because Jesus Christ pleads, but because He died. It is not earned, but accepted. ... 'I don't want to come that way, it is too humiliating to be received as a sinner.' "There is none other Name. . . ' The apparent heartlessness of God is the expression of His real heart, there is boundless entrance in His way. 'We have forgiveness through His blood.'

Identification with the death of Jesus Christ means identification with Him to the death of everything that never was in Him." (December 8) "But God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Galatians 6:14 "The Gospel of Jesus Christ always forces an issue of will. Do I accept God's verdict on sin in the Cross of Christ? Have I the slightest interest in the death of Jesus? "Do I want to be identified with His death, to be killed right out to all interest in sin, in worldliness, in self--to be so identified with Jesus that I am spoilt for everything else but Him?

"The great privilege of discipleship is that I can sign on under His Cross, and that means death to sin. Get alone with Jesus and either tell Him that you do not want sin to die out in you; or else tell Him that at all costs you want to be identified with His death. Immediately you transact in confident faith in what Our Lord did on the Cross, a supernatural identification with His death takes place, and you will know with a knowledge that passeth knowledge that your 'old man' is crucified with Christ.

The proof that your 'old man' has been crucified with Christ is in the amazing ease with which the life of God in you enables you to obey the voice of Jesus Christ. "Every now and again, Our Lord lets us see what we would be like if it were not for Himself; it is a justification of what He said-- 'Without Me ye can do nothing.' That is why the bedrock of Christianity is personal, passionate devotion to the Lord Jesus." (December 23) "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Corinthians 5:21 "Sin is a fundamental relationship; it is not wrong doing, it is wrong being, deliberate and emphatic independence of God.

The Christian religion bases everything on the positive, radical nature of sin. Other religions deal with sins; the Bible alone deals with sin. The first thing Jesus Christ faced in men was the heredity of sin, and it is because we have ignored this in our presentation of the Gospel that the message of the Gospel has lost its sting and its blasting power. "The revelation of the Bible is not that Jesus Christ took upon Himself our fleshly sins, but that He took upon Himself the heredity of sin which no man can touch.

God made His own Son to be sin that He might make the sinner a saint. All through the Bible it is revealed that Our Lord bore the sin of the world by identification, not by sympathy. He deliberately took upon His own shoulders, and bore in His own Person, the whole massed sin of the human race-- 'He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin,' and by so doing He put the whole human race on the basis of Redemption. "...anyone can enter into union with God on the ground of what Our Lord has done on the Cross." (October 7)

"For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." Hebrews 10:14

"Identification with the death of Jesus Christ means identification with Him to the death of everything that never was in Him. God is justified in saving bad men only as He makes them good. Our Lord does not pretend we are all right when we are all wrong. The Atonement is a propitiation whereby God through the death of Jesus makes an unholy man holy." (December 8)

"Behold, we go up to Jerusalem." Luke 18:31

"We start with Christ and we end with Him--'until we all attain to the stature of the manhood of Christ Jesus,' not to our idea of what the Christian life should be. The aim of the missionary is to do God's will, not to be useful, not to win the heathen; he is useful and he does win the heathen, but that is not his aim. His aim is to do the will of his Lord.

"...Jerusalem was the place where He reached the climax of His Father's will upon the Cross, and unless we go with Jesus there, we shall have no companionship with Him....

"The disciple is not above his Master." The same things will happen to us on our way to our Jerusalem. There will be the works of God manifested through us, people will get blessed, and one or two will show gratitude and the rest will show gross ingratitude, but nothing must deflect us from going up to our Jerusalem.

"There they crucified Him.' That is what happened when Our Lord reached Jerusalem, and that happening is the gateway to our salvation. The saints do not end in crucifixion: by the Lord's grace they end in glory. In the meantime our watchword is--I, too, go up to Jerusalem." (September 23)

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. Romans 6:6.

"Co-Crucifixion. Have I made this decision about sin--that it must be killed right out in me? It takes a long time to come to a moral decision about sin, but it is the great moment in my life when I do decide that just as Jesus Christ died for the sin of the world, so sin must die out in me, not be curbed or suppressed or counteracted, but crucified. ...

"Haul yourself up, take a time alone with God, make the moral decision and say--'Lord, identify me with Thy death until I know that sin is dead in me.'...

"Have I entered into the glorious privilege of being crucified with Christ until all that is left is the life of Christ in my flesh and blood?

"I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." (April 10)

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