

# The Cross and the Church, Part 3

by Stephen Kaung

*The church is the body of Christ, born out of the cross of our Lord Jesus, and its testimony is the testimony of Jesus, a powerful and personal experience of his suffering and glory.*

**Duration:** 1:28:39

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 2:1

**Topics:** "Jesus As Lord", "The Cross"

## Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of confessing Jesus as Lord. He highlights that Jesus is the testimony of God and that it is crucial for believers to bear witness to Him. The preacher also discusses the role of Paul in proclaiming the testimony of Jesus, emphasizing that Paul did not rely on persuasive words of wisdom but on the demonstration of the Spirit and power. The sermon also touches on the significance of the Old Testament and how it points to the suffering and glorification of the Messiah, Jesus.

## Transcript

Will you please turn to 1 Corinthians? 1 Corinthians chapter 2 The first five verses And I, when I came to you, the brethren, came not in excellency of word or wisdom, announcing to you the testimony of God. For I did not judge it well to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling.

And my word and my preaching not in persuasive words of wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. That your faith might not stand in man's wisdom but in God's power. The book of Revelation Revelation Chapter 1 Verse 9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and patience in Jesus was in the island of Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus.

Still Chapter 1 Verse 17 and Verse 18 And when I saw him I fell at his feet as dead and he laid his right hand upon me saying fear not I'm the first and the last and the living one and I became dead and behold I'm living to the ages of ages and have the keys of death and of Hades

Revelation Chapter 12 Verses 10 and 11 And I heard a great voice in the heavens saying now is come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ for the accuser of our brethren has been cast out who accused them before our God day and night and they have overcome him by reason of the blood of the Lamb and by reason of the word of their testimony and have not loved their lives even unto death

Let's have a word of prayer. Dear Lord, our hearts bow low in worship. Who in this universe loves us as you did? We thank thee that even though we are the most unworthy people, and yet Thou are willing to die for us.

Lord, our hearts are melted by Thy love. We cannot keep back ourselves from giving over to Thee. Thou has redeemed us for a reason, for a purpose.

And Lord, we do desire that Thy purpose will be fulfilled in each one of us. It is not for ourselves, Lord. It is for Thee.

So may Thy name be glorified among Thy people. May Thy purpose be fulfilled in all Thy people. That glory may fill the universe.

And glory to Thee. We ask in Thy precious name. Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters, We do thank the Lord for being so faithful to us. In the last few days He gathered us together before Him. That is His love.

He does not want us to meet Him with shame. He is coming soon. He wants us to meet Him with joy and glory.

And that's the reason why He gave us this opportunity. Our prayer is that what He has said to us will become reality in our lives. There is nothing more important than the eternal purpose of God.

We thank God that it pleases Him to reveal that purpose to us. And we thank God that He has always also show us the way to that purpose. Our dear brother Lance mentioned the cross and Christ.

In that eternal purpose of God God's Son is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. He came in this world to die. Not for himself.

He has no need to die. And God never dies. But He died for you and for me.

On Calvary's cross the one who knows no sin died for us sinners. That we might become the righteousness of God in Him. What amazing love is this!

Our Lord went to the cross for our sake.

On the cross He accomplished the work that God has sent Him. And He also calls us to follow Him. To follow Him in the way of the cross.

Because that is the way that will lead us to the eternal purpose of God. The scripture said, by the eternal spirit He offered Himself spotless to God. Purifying us Purifying our conscience from that work.

That we may worship the living God. So our dear brother Christian tells us It is the spirit, the Holy Spirit that leads to the cross. And the cross will again lead us to the spirit.

This is a principle that is universal. The cross is the only way to the eternal purpose of God. Out of the cross of our Lord Jesus comes the church.

The church is His own body. And when that body is fully grown Then He will come back and take her as His bride. The body of Christ the church is born out of the cross of our Lord Jesus.

And it is built, matured, completed also through the cross. And that's the reason why our Lord Jesus call us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. If we try to avoid our cross Then we find that we are not growing into Christ.

So we find how necessary the cross must work in our lives. It will purify us. It will sanctify us.

And it will transform us. So dear brothers and sisters If we love the Lord Jesus We love the cross. We know that the cross Originally Is a sign Of sin Of shame Of death Of curse But our Lord Jesus has transformed it Into a symbol Of love Of peace Of life Of victory And that is the reason why today We glory in the cross Of our Lord Jesus.

Now in this concluding message We would like to fellowship on the cross And the testimony of the church. The cross and the testimony of the church. We know that the church is the body of Christ.

It is the fullness of him Who fills all and in all. All the riches of the head Dwell in that body. And that body is the means to manifest The glory of the head.

But the church is also an instrument In the hand of God. It is an instrument for his testimony. And that's the reason why we find The church is sometimes described As a golden lampstand.









I am the first and the last He is the beginning and he is the end He is the Alpha and the Omega Everything comes out of him And everything will return to him He is God He is God's only begotten Son But our Lord said I am the living one He is the source of life He is eternal life And yet, he said, I became dead He came into this world To be crucified To die And buried For our sake But that's not the end Because he is risen Overcoming death Overcoming the one who has the power of death Overcoming everything And he lives forevermore Brothers and sisters And he said I hold the keys of death and Hades That is the testimony of Jesus Brothers and sisters Let us be very clear What is the testimony of Jesus?

The testimony of Jesus Is Christ crucified and glorified And this testimony Is entrusted to the church The church is to bear the testimony of Jesus To tell the world that Christ crucified And to tell the world that Christ glorified Thank God In the days of the apostles That's the way they bear the testimony of Jesus We remember when Peter stood up On the day of Pentecost And he gave the first gospel message And if you read carefully You find what he said about the Lord Jesus Christ crucified and glorified Jesus whom you crucified God has raised him up And he is anointed As Christ and Lord That is bearing the testimony of Jesus Brothers and sisters This testimony of Jesus Is entrusted to the church But as we mentioned before To bear testimony Needs personal experience If the church is to

bear the testimony of Jesus Not only they should know the fact But that fact must have affected their lives So the testifier and the testimony Will become one If we bear testimony Of something happened And these things did happen These things are very real Very true But if when it happened We were not there We knew about it Because it was told to us And if we go to the court And bear testimony We are a very weak witness The court will not accept it That does not change the fact But that fact cannot be established By that witness So brothers and sisters If we want to bear the testimony of Jesus Something must be done Personally Deeply In us We can even say We are there We experience it The cross of Christ Is something That we have experienced It has worked in our lives The glory of our

Lord Is something That we personally experience Because His glory Has touched us And we have been glorified Then our testimony Will be powerful So brothers and sisters The Apostle Paul In 1 Corinthians 2 He said I come to announce The testimony of God He came to Corinth To announce the testimony of God Which is the testimony of Jesus Not in persuasive words Not with human wisdom He was determined To know nothing But Jesus Christ And Him crucified Because this is the very essence Of the testimony of Jesus And then in 2 Corinthians In 2 Corinthians 4 Verse 5 He said For we do not preach ourselves But Christ Jesus Lord And ourselves Your bondmen For Jesus sake Paul did not come to Corinth To preach himself He came to Corinth To preach Jesus Christ And Him crucified And then in 2 Corinthians

He said We do not preach ourselves There is nothing To say about ourselves All we preach Is Jesus Christ Lord He is Lord He is glorified Because when He ascended Because when He ascended God has glorified Him God has given Him a name That is above every name And in that name Every knee shall bow Every tongue must confess Jesus is Lord To the glory of God Brothers and sisters This is The testimony of Jesus Christ Crucified And glorified But in order To bear the testimony He said Verse 3 of chapter 2 Of 2 Corinthians Verse 3 And I was with you In weakness And in fear And in trembling Much trembling And my word And my preaching Not in persuasive words of wisdom But in the demonstration Of the Spirit And of power Poor In announcing The testimony of Jesus He said I am in weakness In fear And

in much trembling Now some people say Now this is because Of his physical weakness Because of his physical condition Because Paul He traveled in The province Roman province of Galatia And he traveled in places Where malaria Was very Very common And most likely Paul got malaria Now if you had malaria

You find it weakened Your constitution And if malaria Should strike You begin to tremble And because of malaria Paul Lost his good eyesight So people say Now that's malaria But brothers and sisters We believe there is Something deeper There is a spiritual Reality there I am in weakness A thorn Is in my body That thorn Is a stick A stick In my body It makes me weak But when I am weak Then I am strong Because his power Is perfected In my weakness He said I am in fear Whom was he afraid of Saul

The Pharisees Was a brave person He was not afraid of anything People were afraid of him But he said I am in fear He was not afraid Of Roman Empire He was not afraid Of the scribes and Pharisees He was afraid Of himself He was afraid He himself Might come forth And he trembled At the word of God We know in Isaiah The heavens And the heavens Cannot contain Our God Heaven is his throne The earth is his footstool But he dwells With those Who are of a contrite Heart And tremble At God's word Brothers and sisters Do we tremble At the word of God We are too brave With God's word We need to tremble At his word It shows that The cross Has worked Into his very being The messenger of the cross Knows What cross is And because of this His testimony Is powerful Brothers and sisters The apostle John

The same way He was in the island of Patmos For the word of God And for the testimony Of Jesus Thank God We have The testimony Of Jesus And this testimony Has been entrusted To the church But how Much Has the church Fulfilled In that trust You remember Towards the end of the first century That was when John Saw The vision On the island of Patmos And the Lord told John Write To the seven churches In Asia And when you read these Seven letters You find at the beginning Of each letter The Lord will give A description A part of the description Of the vision In the first chapter There in the vision He shows people Who he is And what he is And so in every letter It is headed by a part Of that vision The reason is No one Local assembly Is able to bear That full testimony Of Jesus We need all the

churches To join together To bear that testimony So what is it That our Lord Jesus Was looking for In these seven churches These seven churches Are seven land stands Before God They have been entrusted With the testimony Of Jesus How effective Were their testimonies Our Lord Jesus As the high priest To the church And there he was There watching And there he was there Trying to find Himself In them He was not looking For their labor He was not looking For their work He was not looking For their knowledge Nor even their discernment Or their good deeds Even their suffering He was not looking For these things He was looking For himself In these churches Can he find What he has revealed And entrusted to them Nothing can satisfy him Except Himself Because These churches Are entrusted With the

testimony Of Jesus But brothers and sisters We find Of the seven churches Most of them Have failed In their testimony And because of this At the end of each letter There is the word He who has ear to hear Let him hear What the Spirit says To the churches He Who overcomes Brothers and sisters So far as the church in general Is concerned Even towards the end Of the first century The church Had failed In the testimony of Jesus But thank God God never fails So out of this General declension The general failure His testimony cannot fail It has to be bared So he is calling For overcomers Overcomers in the church Overcomers are not Super Christians Overcomers are not Normal Christians Those who are faithful To what They are entrusted with To those who entrust more More is required But they are

faithful To what the Lord Has revealed to them And those who overcome That is overcome The declension Overcome the failure To the testimony Faithful To what God What our Lord Has shown to them Faithful To Christ crucified And glorified Then they will be rewarded In the kingdom Brothers and sisters How about today We mentioned Again and again When The body of Christ The church Is fully grown Then our Lord

Jesus Will come back And claim His bride But as we look At the church today It seems It is Farther And farther Away If That is the case Will our Lord Jesus Delay And delay Forever How can God's Purpose Be fulfilled In the overcomers They overcome The accuser Because of the blood Of the Lamb Not because they are better Than anybody else They have their failures But they Know the blood Of

the Lamb They know the cleansing Of the precious blood They overcome Because of the word Of their testimony In other words When they testify It is true When they testify That Christ crucified They know what Cross means Because it has Worked in their life When they say Jesus is Lord They know what it means Because they were Under the lordship Of Christ And their word Is powerful And they love Not their soul life Even unto death They are willing To lay down themselves If they are not Dead martyrs They are living martyrs They follow the Lamb Wheresoever He goes Brothers and sisters When death Is completed God will take it As for the whole church So what a responsibility We are entrusted with We cannot afford To be careless It is time For us to wake up Thank God That he has faith In us That

he is willing To entrust The testimony of Jesus To us Can we Fail him May the Lord Have mercy upon us Let us pray Dear Lord Jesus Thou hast entrusted Us thyself Thou hast entrusted The cross And the glory To us We pray That we may know Thy suffering And know Thy glory That we may be faithful Witness To thee Make us a people Who not only wait for thee But hasten Thy return Not only in our prayer But in our lives We are Waiting for thee As we return To our various places May we be faithful Witnesses To thee We ask in thy precious name We ask in thy precious name Amen

---

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/8/SID8428.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/stephen-kaung/the-cross-and-the-church-part-3/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**