

The Power of the Cross

1. Justification



The Position of Christ

- Colossians 1:18-20

- Christ, because of the Cross:
 - has the first place in everything
 - is the first-born from the dead
 - has the fullness of God dwelling in Him
 - has reconciled all things to Himself
 - is head of the Body, the Church

- The Church as His Body:
 - should be living triumphant in this same power



The Cross – Only A Partial Gift to Many

- Like being satisfied with only the first gift in a “deep” Christmas Stocking
- Most Christians are content with merely the partial power of the Cross in their lives
- I Corinthians 1:17-18
 - making the cross of Christ void!
 - OR
 - experiencing the complete power of God



In the Cross of Christ...

God empowers His Church through:

- **Justification**
- Authority
- Transformation



1. Justification – Friendship with God

■ Ephesians 2:12-22

■ The Law:

- Israelites = God's people
- everyone else = God's enemies

■ The Cross:

- all who believe can be God's people

■ Acts 5:30-31

■ God's gifts at the Cross

- repentance
- forgiveness of sins



2. Justification – Freedom from all things

■ Acts 13:34-41

■ The Law:

- could show us our sin
- could not free us

■ Through the Cross:

- freedom from all things

■ Hebrews 10:19-21

- Jesus opened a new way
- characterized by reality – “a living way”



3. Justification – A Permanent Advocate

- Hebrews 12:2

- Jesus, through the Cross, is now seated at the right hand of the throne of the Father

- Romans 8:34

- Hebrews 7:25

- Old Covenant High Priest
 - common people dependent on his life
- Christ, through the Cross:
 - our permanent High Priest



Justification Through the Cross

- 1. Friendship with God**
- 2. Freedom from all things**
- 3. A Permanent Advocate**