The Power of the Cross

2. Authority
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 therefore experience a fullness of 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. Friendship with God
2. Freedom from all things
3. A Permanent Advocate
1. Authority – Over World and Self

- Galatians 6:14
  - The world crucified to me
  - I crucified to the world

- Galatians 2:20
  - It is no longer I who live

- The cross of Christ is made void to you, if you’re not on it!
2. Authority – Over All Evil Spirits

- The Body benefiting from the Head’s victory
  - tore up the rap sheet against us (Colossians 2:14)
  - publicly shamed the hosts of hell (Colossians 2:15)
  - rendered the devil powerless (Hebrews 2:14)
  - made victory possible for us (Revelation 12:10-11)

- Giving authority back to Satan (Ephesians 4:25-32)
  - Falsehood
  - Anger
  - Stealing
  - Unwholesome words
  - Pride – not submitting to God (James 4:7)
  - Disunity (Mathew 18:18)
3. Authority – Over All Other Powers

- Philippians 2:9-11
  - Every knee will bow to Jesus as Lord

- Ephesians 1:19b-23
  - The Church, as Christ’s Body, experiences His fullness of power and authority!
Authority Through the Cross

1. Over World and Self
2. Over All Evil Spirits
3. Over All Other Powers