

Freedom Through the Cross

I. The Message of the Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NIV®)

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

I am a sinner, I need a savior.

1 Corinthians 1:20-25 (NIV®)

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

²² Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,

²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,

²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NIV®)

²⁶ Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

²⁸ He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are,

²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

³¹ Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

II. The Importance of Truth

Isaiah 59:12-15 (NIV®)

¹² For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: ¹³ rebellion and treachery against the LORD, turning our backs on our God, fomenting oppression and revolt, uttering lies our hearts have conceived.

¹⁴ So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; **truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter.** ¹⁵ Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice.



John 8:31-32 (NIV®)

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Psalms 119:30-31 (NIV®)

³⁰ I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws.

³¹ I hold fast to your statutes, O LORD; do not let me be put to shame.

Proverbs 23:23 (NIV®)

²³ Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.

Isaiah 1:18-20 (NIV®)

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 as crimson, they shall be like wool. ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; ²⁰ but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

III. The Power of Praise

Isaiah 12:1-6 (NIV®)

¹ In that day you will say: "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me.

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴ In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

Isaiah 42:10-13 (NIV®)

¹⁰ Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them.

¹¹ Let the desert and its towns raise their voices; let the settlements where Kedar lives rejoice. Let the people of Sela sing for joy; let them shout from the mountaintops.

¹² Let them give glory to the LORD and proclaim his praise in the islands.

¹³ The LORD will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies.



Psalm 30:1-5 (NIV®)

¹ I will exalt you, O LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. ² O LORD my God, I called to you for help and you healed me. ³ O LORD, you brought me up from the grave; you spared me from going down into the pit. ⁴ Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name. ⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

Prayer

Almighty God, we turn to You for there is no other. You have provided deliverance and hope. In Your great strength, Your arm has worked salvation. Forgive us for turning away and trusting in false gods. We rejoice in our God and our salvation. May the name of Jesus be exalted throughout the earth. May the purposes of God be made evident in our generation. Let the praises of God be declared in our homes and hearts. Amen.