



Empowering People to Change the World

Good Friday 2017
Christus Victor

Steve Holt

The Cross is:

- A centerpiece of human history.
- The symbol of our faith.
- The foundation of everything we believe in.
- The Crown Jewel of hope.
- For example, I have seen the Hope Diamond in London years ago and as you walk around it you see different shades of color. It is a beautiful diamond where there are many angles to view it from.
- Today on Good Friday, I want to talk about the victory of the cross, classically called the Christus Victor.
- The victory of Christ!

The Victory of Christ prayer: Thank you, Lord, for being Christus Victor, our Christ, our victory! Thank you, Jesus, for winning the greatest victory the world has ever known through a rugged Roman cross on a hill called Calvary. Thank you, Jesus, that we can live in victory because you are the Victor!

Colossians 2:13-15

¹³ And even though you were dead in your transgressions and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he nevertheless made you alive with him, having forgiven all your transgressions. ¹⁴ He has destroyed what was against us, a certificate of indebtedness expressed in decrees opposed to us. He has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ Disarming the rulers and authorities, he has made a public disgrace of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

- Christ is the victor! Christ is our warrior who fought a great battle at the cross and won the victory! He took “captivity captivity” and defeated Satan decisively.

We’ve been made alive in Christ because of the Cross.

- There is a great war going on and the Devil really is alive and he really wants to take you out.
 - To render you ineffective in your Christian life.
 - To wear you down with afflictions, addictions and contradictions.
 - That’s the old life which is the dead life.
 - But at the cross, Christ crushed Satan.
- We are alive in Christ because of the cross. Jesus took our pride and our self-esteem and gave us humility and God-esteem.
 - Satan had a high self-esteem! The root of all sin and all demonic activity is pride.
 - Satan is a great marketer. He has convinced us that we all need a great self-esteem. This is what got him kicked out of heaven and it is what we have today kicking people out of the victory and joy of the Christian life.
 - Satan doesn’t mind if you have a high self-esteem to walk in pride, to do evil and to go to hell.
- The worst sin is pride.
 - Today, if you are walking in pride, you are looking up the moral ladder at all other sins because you are at the bottom of the rung.
 - Pride is the worst sin! It is what is hindering most people from a relationship with Jesus Christ.

In our world today, humility is often seen as a vice and pride as a virtue, but actually the opposite is true. Pride is a vice and humility is a virtue.

- For example: “Steve, are you saying I should have “low self-esteem?” No, I am saying you should have no self-esteem!”
 - Self esteem should not be high or low because our lives are not about “self.”
 - We should have “**Christ-esteem.**”
 - There is arrogance and there is confidence so we want to be a people with confidence but not in self. We should have confidence in Christ and His mighty power working through us!

God made you with talents, gifts and dignity.

- God died on the cross for you and just you. It was so that you could know Him, experience Him and love Him.
- He really loves you and He went to the cross because He loves you.
- The Bible says, “we love Him because He first loved us.”
- Jesus has a call on your life about meaningful service on the earth.
- We do not need to have high or low self-esteem. We need Christ-esteem. He has given all of us dignity, value and worth.

Daniel 11:32

Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery (pride); but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

- Christ gave you dignity, value and worth at Calvary!
 - The cross broke the power of Satan which is pride.
 - The bait of Satan is pride.
 - Do not look at self but look at the cross.
 - There is nothing good in you to esteem!
- The great myth is that we are free if we follow our own desires.
- There are two things we are not free to do:
 1. to stop sinning and 2. not to die.
- We were slaves! We were captive to Satan! We were captive to our own choices.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- This is what happened at the cross! The Christus Victor died on the cross and, when we place our faith in Him. He provides us with the power to live out humility, faith and submission.
- At the cross, Christ came to set us free to stop sinning and to not die!
- Jesus wants to rule and reign! He wants to rule and reign in your life.
- And He came to reign at Calvary.
 - Reign over Satan.

- Reign over demons.
- Reign over us!
- Reign over our sin!
- Reign over our pride!

Colossians 2:13-15

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- At the cross, Jesus looks like the defeated one.
- Martin Luther made much of this verse saying that because of the humility of Jesus, the cross appeared to be Christ's greatest defeat and Satan's greatest victory but the opposite was true!
- Charles Spurgeon said, "To the eye of reason, the Cross is the centre of sorrow and the depths of shame. To the world, the Cross must ever be the emblem of shame."

Jesus destroyed what was against us.

- Jesus died a seeming felon to set all felons free!
- Jesus died next to 2 other criminals so that we would not be criminals any more.
 - Jesus is beaten and bloodied that we might have health and be healed.

- Jesus is stripped of all dignity that we might be clothed with His love and humility.
- Jesus died the most heinous death so that we can live the most magnificent life!
- We were dead, but now we are alive and made alive in Christ Jesus.
 - Alive to follow Him, love Him and obey Him.
 - We were dead in our sins and now you are alive in the Spirit.
- Because of the cross, all of our sins, rebellion and self-esteem can be forgiven.
 - The “certificate of debt” a business term meaning a certificate of indebtedness in the debtor’s handwriting.
 - All of decrees of the law: “ - that you are a loser, you are branded, you can’t make it -“ have all been nailed to the cross.
 - All of those voices have been literally nailed and crucified at the cross.
- Christus Victor did it all. It is finished! It is finished!

Colossians 2:15

¹⁵ Disarming the rulers and authorities, he has made a public disgrace of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

- Not only did God the Father cancel out the accusations and shame of the law against the Christ follower but He also conquered and disarmed Satan and demons.
- As an example, this is of how the Romans displayed the trophies of their military victories: the conquered soldiers, following the great triumphant general, are trailing behind. They are stripped of their clothes as well as their weapons, chained together and walking

behind the great chariot with the conquering general leading them in the procession.

- John Calvin said of this passage, “For as he had previously compared the cross to a signal trophy or show of triumph, in which Christ led about his enemies, so he now also compares it to a triumphal chariot in which he showed himself in great magnificence. For there is no tribunal so magnificent, no throne so stately, no show of triumph so distinguished, no chariot so elevated, as in the cross on which Christ has subdued death and the devil, the prince of death: He has trodden them under His feet.”
- **Christus Victor! Christus Victor!**
- Can you hear the trumpet blast? We are now free to discover God’s will for our life. Christ nailed all the shame, abuse, accusation and pride to the cross.
- It is Christ at the cross saying, “it is finished.”
 - Satan is stripped of his power and weapons.
 - Demons have been stripped of their power and weapons.
- **1 John 3:8**

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- If you believe that Christ is calling you to Himself today, as a sign of your commitment to being a Christ follower, take communion with us.
 - Communion is the hospitality of God inviting you to a feast with Him.
 - On Maunday Thursday, last night, Christ took communion with His disciples one last time.
 - It was a foretaste of heaven.

- **Revelation 19:9**

“Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”

- If your name is written in the Book of Life, you will dine with Him when we come together in eternity.
- This is a prophetic foretaste of heaven!
- Dine with Christus Victor.
- May God enlarge your faith, strengthen your hope and inflame your love!