

**General Topics :: It is Christ crucified and not the law, that convicts the hearts of men.****It is Christ crucified and not the law, that convicts the hearts of men., on: 2016/6/3 11:24**

Much has been spoken about recently about the preaching of the law to stir up or bring conviction to men. If we look at the first chapters of Acts we can see just exactly what the Apostles were preaching to the unconverted, they were preaching Christ crucified, and in the preaching of Christ crucified, mens hearts were stirred up, fallow ground was broken and it was said that they were stabbed in the heart."

It uses that phrase twice, one in Acts 2 where 3000 were saved and again in Acts seven where Stephen was stoned. In both of these " sermons," they convicting teaching was that they (the crowd) crucified the Christ. Now why would that convict men then and down though the last 2000 years as opposed to preaching the law? First of all Christ and Him crucified in the central aspect of everything that we believe and every man is guilty of crucifying Christ and they know it when they hear it. How do they know it, how can they possibly know it? Why does it convert men or cause men to become extremely angry? Scripture tells us

Joh 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

Every man that comes into the world has something of the light in him, the light of Christ. When Christ is preached, Christ crucified, it causes conviction because of the "light." This light clashed with the darkness of men and they are either saved or they retreat into the darkness of who they are. Below are the key Scriptures from the first several chapters of Acts showing what the Disciples were preaching to either individuals, pharisees or the crowd in general, it was Christ crucified. This is what causes conviction in the heart of men.....bro Frank

Act 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

(Act 2:36-37)

The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

(Act 3:13-15)

Act 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

(Act 5:29-30)

Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

(Act 7:52-54)

The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

(Act 8:32-33)

Re: It is Christ crucified and not the law, that convicts the hearts of men., on: 2016/6/3 13:01

Amen, Frank.

What did Philip preach to the Eunuch? Presumably, the Eunuch was not a Jew. Did he preach the Law, or did he preach unto the Eunuch, Jesus?

What saith the scriptures?

Act 8:31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

Act 8:32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

Act 8:33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

Act 8:34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

Act 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, AND PREACHED UNTO HIM JESUS.

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 13:10

He was a Jew.

Acts 8:27-28

"And he arose and went: and behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was over all her treasure, who had come to Jerusalem to worship; and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah."

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 13:21

Hi Julias, I think the point for me is that no matter who the Disciples were preaching to, Jew or Gentile, they preached Christ and Him crucified. They were so very bold as to say to the people, over and over again, that they had crucified the Christ and of course the people were "stabbed in the heart."

Oh how we would long to see a generation of today being "stabbed in the heart." Why do we not see it to any great degree? Is it perhaps that we do not have the same boldness as the Apostles and the early church to say unto an angry crowd "You crucified the Christ!"

The Greek word for the phrase "stabbed in the heart," is katanusso." It means to thoroughly pierce, to violently agitate. So much so that men and woman cried out "what must we do to be saved." This is conviction and it had nothing to do with the law and everything to do with the fact that men, all men of the world, who each have a portion of the light of Christ according to John 1, are convicted of Christ crucified for them and for their sins. They already know they are sinners. But to think that they crucified the Christ and then to find that despite being guilty of the greatest sin of all, participating in the death of the Son of God, there is mercy to be found at that very same cross. It is the mystery of justice and mercy entwined on Calvary!.....bro Frank

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 13:31

Men are convicted of their sinfulness when they are in the presence of a man who is filled with the Spirit and it barely matters what he says or how bold he is - look at the example of Charles Finney and the girl in the factory who only had to see his face to be convicted after she had mocked him.

The fact that it is not happening in the West these days can mean only one thing.

Re: It is Christ crucified and not the law, that convicts the hearts of men. - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/6/3 13:31

The Law/law indirectly/directly is instrumental in all conversions.

What is sin ? "...sin is the transgression of the law."

"...where no law is, there is no transgression."

If a man does not believe himself a sinner then he does not see himself in need of a Savior.

How does man know himself a sinner, because he has transgressed the standard both within himself and also God's standard that is revealed in the Law.

As far as I am aware every single Preacher on SI that I am aware of is in agreement with me on this.

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 13:34

The most vivid depiction of Jesus dying on the cross is found in Isaiah 53. The picture of the cross is so vivid in Isaiah 53 that I've been told by Messianic Jews that Orthodox Jews will not read that selection in their Torah. I guess they're afraid of being converted by coming face-to-face with the cross.

All that being said it is Christ crucified that is preached that will draw all men to him. For Jesus said if I be lifted up I will draw all men to Myself. The implication there is that Jesus would be lifted up on the cross. As such the cross is that which draws the sinner to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is at the cross where the sinner comes face-to-face with his own sin.

Simply my thoughts.

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 13:37

thank you for the correction, Tozsu.

Amen, Brenda, Frank, and PP.

When you preach Jesus Christ, you are preaching about a man that died sinless. This is already communicating to the hearer that there is a difference between being sinful and sinless. So, preaching Jesus will cover all the bases. Now, if like Elizabeth Elliot and her husband encountering a tribe that knows nothing of sin, obviously you have to communicate to them that they need a Savior by showing them that without Christ they are lost? And why are they lost? Because of sin and you have to show them why they are sinners.

I find myself agreeing with all of you.

When I preach Jesus, all of your subjects invariably come up.

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 13:39

Quote:

-----by bearmaster on 2016/6/3 13:34:11

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Simply my thoughts.

Many think the "Suffering Servant" of Isaiah 53 is Israel.

Re: PP, on: 2016/6/3 13:47

Brother I don't know if every single preacher on SI is in agreement with the preaching of the law for conversion. I think some believe to preach the cross is sufficient to see sinners come to salvation in Jesus.

Actually we don't need the law to convict of sin but the Holy Spirit. For Jesus said and John 16:8-11,

... And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness because I go to the father and you no longer see me; and concerning judgement, because the ruler of this world has been judged...

It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to convict of sin. This is what happened in the passages that brother Frank brought to our attention. The Jews that Peter was preaching to were smitten in their heart because they had crucified the Lord of Glory. Not because they violated the law of Moses. Though I suppose an argument could be made that they had violated the Commandment Thou shalt not murder. But Peter was not preaching law that day. He was preaching Christ crucified. And because he pointed people to the Cross of Christ 3000 were saved on that first day. The church was birthed.

My thoughts bro.

Re: Julius, on: 2016/6/3 13:50

That is one interpretation. However the Orthodox Jews are so disturbed by the vivid depiction of Jesus on the cross as portrayed in that selection of scripture, some will not read it in their Torah selection.

Bro Blaine

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/6/3 14:05

RE: ///Brother I don't know if every single preacher on SI is in agreement with the preaching of the law for conversion. I think some believe to preach the cross is sufficient to see sinners come to salvation in Jesus.///

You are sorta misconstruing what I wrote by your response.

This is what I wrote :

The Law/law indirectly/directly is instrumental in all conversions.

What is sin ? "..sin is the transgression of the law."

"..where no law is, there is no transgression."

General Topics :: It is Christ crucified and not the law, that convicts the hearts of men.

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How does man know himself a sinner, because he has transgressed the the standard both within himself and also Gods standard that is revealed in the Law.

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I have already provided clear quotes in the other thread from David Wilkerson, A W Tozer , CH Spurgeon, Watchman Nee, Martyn Lloyed Jones , Jonathan Edwards , George Whitefield , John Wesley, DL Moody, AW Pink etc.

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 14:07

Amen Bro Frank,

It is significant that the day that the Jews were (and still do) celebrating Shavuot...the Holy Spirit was poured out (Acts 2) . Shavuot means "weeks" referring to the seven weeks between the Exodus from Egypt and the giving of the Law.

This is why the LORD waited those seven weeks after the Passover Lamb was slain and risen from the dead. When all the Jews were in Jerusalem to celebrate the giving of the Torah, that is when the Holy Spirit was poured out or placed in the hearts of his people. We refer to it as Pentecost because it was the 50th day after Jesus rose from the dead.

I was made aware of the significance of God's timing in this event
When learning of our Jewish roots.

I hope this helps to enlighten God's transference of the Law from mind to heart by the gift of the Holy Spirit available only to those who believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Sacrifice Lamb who died for our sins, once and for all.

Holy Holy Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come. (Rev. 4) Our God is an Awesome God!!!

Respectfully,
Sis L

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 15:15

Quote:

-----by appolus on 2016/6/3 13:21:20

Oh, how we would long to see a generation of today being " stabbed in the heart." Why do we not see it to any great degree? Is it perhaps that we do not have the same boldness as the Apostles and the early church to say unto an angry crowd " You crucified the Christ!"

No, I tend to think it has more to do with the Church's witness/conduct than with boldness. I lead more towards what Brenda is alluding to. The Church that the world sees is one in which they see little difference with themselves. There is a lot of mixture (leaven). No holiness, no love, and just as many divorces and lawsuits and even in many cases, political war mongers. They see a love for the world and sin, in the church. They do not see any power over sin.

Like the bumper sticker says, "I'm not perfect, just forgiven". That has to be the worst message ever put on a bumper for the world to see.

Too many in the Church take the view that one cannot be free from sin, just forgiven. Just like the motto: "Christians are n't perfect just forgiven." The acceptance of imperfection and unrighteousness seems to be the norm for the church. What this motto really says to the world is, "I am a sinner just like you, but I'm forgiven and you are not." The emphasis is put on forgiveness instead of righteousness. Many have the attitude of a Christian minister who was in an adulterous relationship; when confronted he responded, "Every night before I go to sleep, I just ask the Lord to forgive me."

Is there more than forgiveness? Is there freedom from sin? Many respond to these questions by talking about the sin nature in the believer, saying one can never be free from sin because sin will always be in him until he dies. They say the righteousness of Christ in no way changes the carnal flesh, neither does the carnal flesh affect the divine nature. Here man finds himself in a schizophrenic dualism of confusion and failure. The emphasis is upon "saved IN sin" rather than "saved FROM sin". One finds himself living in a two story house with no connecting stairway. On one floor there can be no sin, while on the other floor there is nothing but sin.

In seeking a Biblical position let us consider the following; First, there IS actual cleansing from sin. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to CLEANSE US from ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS" (1 John 1:9). So, here is the step BEYOND FORGIVENESS; there IS CLEANSING from ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS. The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin (v 7). When one is cleansed, he is SET FREE. The cleansing comes through a process of repentance, as "we walk in the light as He is in the light" (vs 7).

Second, there is release from the corrupt man, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead IS FREED FROM SIN." Rom 6:6-7. Just as Jesus Christ died for the sin of the world, so sin must die in me. Are you committed to total freedom from sin? You ask, "Do I believe I can reach a point where I CANNOT sin?" No, but I believe one can reach a point where they ARE FREE NOT TO SIN.

Third, there is a baptism of the Holy Spirit that empowers the man. "He saved us...by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5). The baptism of the Holy Spirit is an infusion of God's love, and invasion of God's Spirit, a penetration of truth and righteousness, and an emancipation from sin. Only the Holy Spirit can reach the depth of man's being and bring radical change. God promised this as part of the New Covenant.

God promised those in the New Covenant: Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. Ezekiel 36:25-27

Christ came to make men righteous. This is more than a legal reckoning of faith; rather, righteousness is to be experienced as a work of the Holy Spirit in one's life. This is radical and immediate. The Holy Spirit will come as a fire to purge from all defilement, as a knife to circumcise the heart, and as a scribe to write God's laws on your heart. "Christ in you, the hope of glory", is the Holy Spirit in you bringing forth His righteousness (Colossians 1:27).

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 15:27

I appreciate the comments so far but would just say to some who would want to rehash old quotes from "other preachers," can you say, without referencing anyone else, that what Christ did on the cross was all sufficient and that the call from then on was to go out and preach the law, sorry, I meant the Gospel to all the world? (me being facetious)

Now in our minds we can maybe try and be clever and break things down and try to figure out how something actually works but the simple fact remains that the Disciples preached Christ and Christ alone and Him crucified. If we stick to what the Scriptures have taught us we discover that while on the cross Jesus proclaimed that "It is finished." The work was done, everything was now fulfilled and complete in Christ and His resurrection three days later would testify to that. Death could in fact not keep him down, the curse of the law was death and Christ overcame death and hell and the grave. This is our testimony and this is what we have been called to share with everyone. The rest of the work is the Holy Spirit.

By the way, there can be no greater accusation against any man or woman, that they are responsible for the death of the Holy Son of the everlasting God. So if you want someone convicted, if you want their hearts ploughed up, if you want t

o see them stabbed in the heart, preach like Peter did with the same power that He had. This is going to be way more effective than to go through the 10 commandments and tell people what they already know about themselves whether they acknowledge it out loud or not. Guilty of the murder of the Son of God! Now if that does not make a man tremble then re-counting lesser sins to them will be meaningless.....bro Frank

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:
(1Co 2:1-4)

Spurgeon, from his sermon "Preaching Christ Crucified"....

In the verse preceding our text, Paul writes, "Jews demand miraculous signs." They said, "Moses performed miracles; let us see miracles performed, and then we will believe," forgetting that all the miracles that Moses did were completely eclipsed by those which Jesus did while he was on the earth as the God-man. Then there were certain Judaizing teachers who, in order to win the Jews, preached circumcision, exalted the Passover, and endeavored to prove that Judaism might still exist side by side with Christianity, and that the old rites might still be practiced by the followers of Christ. So Paul, who was "all things to all men so that by all possible means he might save some," put his foot down, and said, in effect, "Whatever others may do, we preach Christ crucified; we dare not, we cannot, and we will not alter the great subject matter of our preaching, Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 15:29

Amen, good post Julius.

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/6/3 15:45

///...if like Elizabeth Elliot and her husband encountering a tribe that knows nothing of sin, obviously you have to communicate to them that they need a Savior by showing them that without Christ they are lost? And why are they lost? Because of sin and you have to show them why they are sinners.///

Exactly.

If you have an antidote for people whom have been bitten by a venomous snake , It is only good to those whom will take it.

You would have a difficult time giving an antidote to someone whom did not recognize that they have indeed been bitten by a venomous snake.

And If you did persuade them somehow to take the antidote without their understanding that they have been bitten by a venomous snake , they would not have any appreciation for the antidote and would have no reason to believe that the antidote saved them.

If someone is already well aware that they have been bitten by a venomous snake and are already seeking and open to the antidote, than it would be unnecessary to point out their condition.

Edit add : Pointing out one's condition and symptoms has nothing to do with the antidote, except for leading them to the antidote.

Re: Frank , on: 2016/6/3 15:55

Brother indeed it is sufficient to preach Christ and Christ Alone. For we see from Paul in 1st Corinthians 15:3-4,

... for I delivered to you as the first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures...

This is further evidenced in 1 Corinthians 1:17

..... For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void...

Paul goes on further to state in 1 Cor.1:18,

... For the word of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God...

I think the last part of that verse should be pondered. For the cross is the power of God for those who are being saved. It is sufficient to preach the cross as it has the power to draw sinners to the Lord Jesus Christ and save them. Namely because the power comes from Him who died on the cross. Again in 1 Cor.1:22-24,

... For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to the Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are being called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God...

From the above verses we can see that the heart of Paul's preaching was Christ on the cross. Paul preached Christ crucified for he saw that it was his sins that put Jesus on the cross. Paul reflects this thought in 1st Timothy 1:15-16,

... It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate his perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in him for eternal life...

Paul made his boast in the cross in Galatians 6-14,

... But may it be that I would never boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world...

So indeed, the heart of Paul's preaching and life was the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Just my thoughts as gleaned from scripture.

Re: - posted by yuehan, on: 2016/6/3 16:38

A verse worth considering on the purpose of the law:

"Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor." (Galatians 3:24-25)

How is the law a tutor to Christ? Note that the verse applies to both Jews and Gentiles alike, given the audience in Galatia.

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 16:43

Just posting my own testimony here in short.

By age 24 I knew the Law and that I couldn't keep it.

Was always walking in condemnation. Was raised in Mormonism which tries to keep the 10 commandments. (along with other stuff as you all know).

Knowing I would never measure up, having broken all commandments (no one had to tell me this) I decided to commit suicide).

My brother Vince had heard and then read in the Bible that Jesus Christ died so that we could be forgiven of sins and have peace with God.

I knew that Vince had changed from an angry, confused and moody young man to someone who exuded peace.

So the day that I was going to put my head in the gas oven and end it all, I called out to the brass heavens and cried out for God to make himself real to me. Immediately my mind went to a scripture a man had once spoken to me several years earlier. It was John 15:1. "I am the true vine.." That is all I could remember, so I found my unread and unused Bible packed in a box to look up the reference.

What my eyes landed on was John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me."

At that moment, I believed in Jesus and a peace flooded my soul as I had never known. I kept reading and his Truth was opened up to me as I read in the book of John. I was born again that day in February 1975 in the middle of Salt Lake City.

I'm writing this because I was not immediately convinced of my own sinfulness until a year later when I went to a small Baptist church in Logan, Utah where the pastor was preaching that our (MY) sins had nailed Jesus to the cross. That is when I was pierced to the heart and it was a pain and sorrow as I had never known and I think that I wept for two or three meetings until I wanted to be baptized in water and receive the Holy Spirit. Then came the great joy and assurance that I was forgiven of my sins and was a new creation and I have never turned back.

As I look back I see that for a while I was on rocky ground. I was not willing to humble myself and go to a "fundamental" Baptist church that I looked down upon. When I took the steps to meet some other Christians and hear the word of God preached, then God took hold of me and established me in his truth.

I don't ever try to analyze or give my testimony theological terms. It was what happened to me. I know what God did and I am forever grateful.

I'm a simple woman and pretty much can't convince anyone of anything but I can always share how Jesus saved me from death.

Love in Christ,
Sister Leslie

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 17:10

"If someone is already well aware that they have been bitten by a venomous snake and are already seeking and open to the antidote, then it would be unnecessary to point out their condition."

PP, I have never met anyone who did not know they were sinners, apart from maybe sociopaths. Whether a tribal member from deep in the jungle or someone from Victorian England, they all knew they were sinners and why? They have a conscience and every man who comes into the world has been touched by the light of Jesus according to the Word.

According to Romans " all men," suppress the truth in unrighteousness. The word suppress is to hold down. The word all in the Greek means.....all :) Now do you know what that means? There is not a single actual atheist in the world, only people who call themselves that for let the word of God be true and all men be liars. When a man says he is an atheist

he is lying to you and to himself for his conscience tells him otherwise and when he comes before God that man shall not plead ignorance. Ignorance is no defense in human law and it shall be no defense before the throne otherwise better for men to be left in their ignorance.....bro Frank

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 17:35

Amen sister Leslie, amen, what a wonderful testimony. When you realized that your sins had nailed Jesus to the Cross then your heart was pierced and you were saved and you wept tears of repentance.

I had a long road to salvation but after a mighty struggle I went forward at a church and gave my life to Jesus. Yet, I did not feel the lessening of the load that others have testified to. In fact, quite the opposite. My mind was inundated by filth and madness. For two weeks this came against me unto the point of insanity. The third Sunday after going to this church my mind was in a turmoil as these thoughts bombarded my mind. All I could think of was to get out of that church. As I stood up to leave, the lady playing the organ suddenly stopped playing and began to give a word in tongues.

Even as she was speaking and well before any interpretation I could hear God speaking and the first thing I heard was "Frank." My name on His lips. This was so significant to me because I had never heard my name on my earthly father's lips. This might seem strange to some folks unless they grew up in severe dysfunction and in the madness of a violent alcoholic. He only ever called me idiot. And so to hear that name coming from my heavenly Father's lips stopped me dead in my tracks. He said "look." I looked and I was standing at Calvary in this vision. I could see myself kneeling below the cross and as I looked up to the cross every part of me knew that I had put the Lord up there and there was such agony in this.

As I stood quite a distance behind myself watching me kneel there, I noticed the blood that was dripping down the Lord's Body. My eyes were fixed on the lowest drop as it dripped off His toe and fell toward me as I was kneeling below Him. I watched that drop of Blood land on my head and suddenly I was back standing in the church, tears streaming down my face, all the torment gone, never to return. I cried for the next six months. I cried every time I heard a sermon. I cried every time I read the Word, I cried every time I heard the name of Jesus. I am sure people thought I was quite emotionally disturbed :)

Calvary, the power to heal, the power to forgive, the power to cleanse. Calvary where the Lord humiliated the enemy although it looked quite the opposite. It was Calvary before it was Calvary afterwards and it is Calvary forever. The Son of God triumphing over hell and death and sin. This is why Calvary lies at the very heart of who we are, the beating heart of every Christian is the finished work of Calvary alive in them, out of death sprung life and that more abundantly.....bro Frank

Re: Frank and Leslie, on: 2016/6/3 18:00

Wonderful testimonies! Just coming to the Savior as you were to be cleansed by Him.

In my younger years I knew there was a God. But I did not know how to know him. For a short time I went to a Catholic High School. I thought the best thing to do was to take instructions to become a Catholic. (Brother Frank I'm sure you're smiling at this) After the first session I knew Catholicism was not for me. I was even introduced to Mormonism briefly (Sister Leslie you're probably smiling at this) But after a brief time found out that Mormonism was not my cup of coffee. :)

I knew that something was tugging at my heart. I didn't realize it was the Holy Spirit at the time. Back in the days when one could do this my social studies teacher invited me to her church in to a youth group that she sponsored. It was at the youth group I noticed that there was a change of life in these young people. Later the pastor of the church met with me. He shared with me the claims of Jesus Christ. He showed me that to become a Christian I needed to invite Jesus into my heart. I prayed the sinner's prayer asking Jesus to come into my heart and forgive me of my sins. Later through the ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ I pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit. And since then. By the grace of God I have walked with the Lord Jesus Christ for 40-plus years.

My Testimony is not as dramatic as that of my sister Leslie or brother Frank. But I know Christ is in my heart. And I did not have to have Moses preach to me to know that there was a cross that forgave me of my sins.

Brothers and sisters this is my simple testimony in Jesus.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/6/3 18:31

Frank Iv met plenty who don't believe there sinners ,but actual believe there righteous , but not perfect ,,most people I k now think they are good people ,that's where the law comes in ,to make sin exceeding sinful,

Rather the sin being ok and not really sin....

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 18:51

Quote:
-----by appolus on 2016/6/3 17:10:35
"If someone is already well aware that they have been bitten by a venomouse snake and are already seeking and open to the antidote, than it would be unnecessary to point out there condition them."

That reminds me of this:

Mar 2:17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Apparenty, there are people who are not aware of any sin in their lives.

Luke 5:30 But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publica ns and sinners?

;-)

There are those who are prideful and arrogant and I believe there are those who are truly ignorant.

Re: Context, on: 2016/6/3 19:27

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I challenge everyone to check for yourselves the context of the referenced verses, and please correct me if I am wrong:
1.

In acts 1:36 and Acts 4:10 the Holy Spirit convicted the crowd/leaders (through Peter) of their own literal grievous sin tha t they had just recently committed. Peter was not afraid to tell them that they sinned. The leaders literally conspired to kill Jesus and the crowd agreed crying "Crucify Him!". Nowhere in the bible except when these same people were present are people told that they murdered Christ. They were pricked in their heart because they recognized their own sin, and r epented. (or some hardened)

The same way today if a person through a Holy Spirit led preaching recognizes his sin will be pricked in his heart and re pents (or hardens).

Acts 1:36-37

36

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Acts 4:10

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

2.

In 1st Corinthians 1:23 and 2:2 the meaning from the context is that Paul does not want anyone to teach or practice emp

General Topics :: It is Christ crucified and not the law, that convicts the hearts of men.

ty religion. It does not mean advising anyone against any portion of the scripture, but only means that when we teach those scriptures it should be done in the light of Christ's sacrifice.

The main character of the OT is Christ, he was slain from the beginning, He is the topic of every scripture including the Law. Every time someone sinned they had to bring sacrifice for it. The law was constantly reminding people to God's provision and the (then future) coming of the Messiah.

1st Corinthians 2:2

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

1st Corinthians 1:23

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

The expression "Preach only Christ crucified" as used in this thread and with the meaning it was given to it in this thread is not supported by the scriptures.

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 19:56

Hi Julias ,

I believe there is a huge difference between awareness of sin and acknowledgement of sin. Pride keeps sin well hidden but not from the bearer of the sin. Men have opinions on whether other men realize they are sinners or not but the Word says.....

Rom 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness. Rom 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

I really think this says it all about the wickedness or sin in man.....bro Frank

Re: Toszu , on: 2016/6/3 19:57

Dear sister respectfully Frank and myself have reasoned our case from the word of God. In post after post I have set forth scriptures to show that under the New Covenant we preach Jesus. I have shown from the verses you yourself have quoted that Paul as well as Peter preached Jesus and not law.

If anything those who hold to law have failed to demonstrate conclusively from the word of God that law must be preached before a person comes to Christ.

There is another thing though. Those who would hold to the law do not acknowledge the role of the Holy Spirit. At least do not acknowledge His role in the conviction of sin, judgment, and righteousness as Jesus laid out in John 16:8-11. But then that is to be expected. For the law and the Spirit do not mix.

Sister the law is a shadow. Christ is the substance. We are to preach the substance of Christ. Not the shadow of the law.

My thoughts dear sister.

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 20:04

Hi Zsuanna ,

All men are guilty of Jesus being crucified not simply the Jews, He died for your sins and He died for mine. You put Him on the cross and I put Him on the cross you were guilty of his and I was guilty of this, this is basic Christianity sister. If you deny this, and you seem to be, we must agree to disagree and consider ourselves to be not on the same page. There would be no point in continuing to post on this thread, since we are so many poles apart and I would respectfully ask that there be no needless contention and 100 more posts to back up your points which I believe to be fundamentally flawed. Perhaps you could start a thread stating that only the Jewish people were guilty of crucifying Jesus and that the Scriptures mentioned having nothing to do with anyone other than those present when it was spoken. That would be 100% wrong but I have no desire to discuss it here on this thread.....bro Frank

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 20:17

Thank you brother Blaine for your testimony, surely this is a most wonderful way of seeing the truths of the Scripture playing out in the lives of the saints today. Rather than trying to endlessly make theological points and winning arguments, sharing our own testimonies is personal and a great way of teaching others and actually draws us all closer together as we see how the Spirit of God is working in and through us today.....bro Frank

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 20:24

Apollus you might be right but the verses you quoted read in their proper context do not prove it and do not talk about that concept.

Re: - posted by JFW (), on: 2016/6/3 20:42

Well I guess you gentlemen are saying that Luther, Wesley, Daniels, Finney, and the great host of like minded men who just happen to be the greatest "soul winners" to Christ over the past 400 yrs since the reformation all got it wrong?

As you are squarely disagreeing with the tried and true tactics they employed and testify to,...

Are your branches as fruitful as the least of these men?

If not, then perhaps it's wise let the Holy Spirit be the director of our ministries and not well meaning doctrines, ... He knows whether it's the law or Christ crucified in each situation that will bring about His will:)

While all this quibbling is going on, ... millions of souls are entering an eternal hell from which we claim to have the remedy, yet we sit in the comfort of our air conditioned boxes and argue over the "color of the horns we blow" all while the horns we put so much supposed faith in collect dust...

Doctrines and theology never saved a soul, ... not even one!

Why then are we perpetually consumed with such fruitless quibbling?

The fields are white with harvest but the workers are few, they're too busy arguing over who's wearing the right uniform? !!

Pray that the Lord of the harvest would send the workers into the fields!

Honestly if we were half the disciples we imagine ourselves to be the least used portion of this site would be the most heavily used...

Miracles that follow the plow would be an overflowing treasure chest of testimonies of the day's harvest and the amazing things God did today!

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2016/6/3 21:14

Quote:
-----By the way, there can be no greater accusation against any man or woman, that they are responsible for the death of the Holy Son of the everlasting God. So if you want someone convicted, if you want their hearts ploughed up, if you want to see them stabbed in the heart, preach like Peter did with the same power that He had.

Brother Frank is making some very good points in this thread that are well worth considering. It is by the Holy Spirit that men are brought to realization of the great horror and wickedness that has happened in mankind and their own very sins

being the crucifying of the sinless perfect Son of God.

John 16:8 New International Version (NIV)

8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

The law though is unmovable and established of God. His Commands are unshakable and they stand as sure as His very character. Sin is a transgression of God Himself in the end and a choosing a way contrary. And as has been shared adequately that this culminates in the very rejecting and killing of the Son of God, God Himself.

Acts 7:51-53 New International Version (NIV)

51 "You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! 52 Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him!" 53 You who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.

the Lord clearly shows us through the preaching of Stephen that it is the rejecting of God Himself that is the conclusion and crux of the matter. Of course therefore they were rejecting and religiously hating (not obeying) the clear laws given by God. Law was a form of communication of relationship with the people of God and those who rejected it and formed a new law or new human traditions where in the end despising God Himself, and this manifested for them crucifying the author of the Law when He came to them. They never knew Him.

I would also add that it is not wrong to share law, commandments, and speak of sinful attitudes, I would say that we should be led by the Holy Spirit to do so and there is no human way of preaching law in such a hard way to convert people. Conversion is a work of the Holy Spirit.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/6/3 21:22

Good observations, Greg fully agree with you ..

I think any person who says the Holy Spirit as nothing to do convicting and converting men, just aren't Christians

Re: , on: 2016/6/3 22:02

Thank you brother Greg for the spirit of love in your words.

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2016/6/3 22:20

Yes, Christ crucified is our only redemption from sin. Even if man could keep the Law perfect it still would have no redeeming qualities, it would only let man glory in himself for keeping the Law perfect.

"Christ and Him crucified" is our death which all deserve. The Life of Christ is our resurrection and His Life is our sanctification.

1 Corinthians 1:30 But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

If Christ alone is not enough, then we make God a liar. God cannot lie, which makes Jesus Christ crucifixion, death and resurrection our all and that must come from the Father who gives us to Jesus Christ and puts us in Him and Him in us the incorruptible Seed, at our new birth. "Ye must be born again".

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see th

e kingdom of God.

Joh 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

1Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

The Living Word Himself living in us, sealed by the Holy Spirit of which we must believe by the Faith of Jesus Christ who now lives in us.

Jesus Christ is our only life and light. John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

I was in the blackness of dark, but now I am in the Light of His resurrection.

In Christ: Phillip

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/6/3 22:53

Amen Philip,, and yet the cross of Christ would mean nothing ,unless for Christ keeping the law of Moses ,fulfilling it at every point ,proving his righteousness,being spotless, being the righteousness of God him self ,

Become our righteousness, by imputation ,that by faith , we are excepted by his merits,and evidently imparting to us the Devine nature and life of Christ ,where by we can truely repent and grow in sangtfication....., and walk as true creations of Christ , not perfect as he but as human should be ...walking in humility, and Not thinking of our selves to highly , or boasting in our derived holiness, but in the reality of the substitutionary atonement of Christ ..

Re: - posted by Christinyou (), on: 2016/6/3 23:07

Amen Gary, Quote""Amen Philip,, and yet the cross of Christ would mean nothing ,unless for Christ keeping the law of Moses ,fulfilling it at every point ,proving his righteousness, being spotless, being the righteousness of God Him self ,""

And yet, He did not deem Himself to be equal with God, by His humanness, although He was God. WE WOULD.

In Christ: Phillip

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/6/4 6:34

Yep very true

Re: , on: 2016/6/4 9:29

Phillip writes.....

"If Christ alone is not enough, then we make God a liar.."

I say amen to that. And since he was amened by others then the point of this thread has been fulfilled. Now that we are all in agreement, there is no need to add to that.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2016/6/4 9:55

Obviously frank we aren't in agreement ,,but that's ok

Re: , on: 2016/6/4 10:03

In agreement with the sentence I posted from Philip. It is to the point and without ambiguity.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/6/4 10:07

Frank previously wrote :

"Spurgeon, from his sermon "Preaching Christ Crucified"....

In the verse preceding our text, Paul writes, "Jews demand miraculous signs." They said, "Moses performed miracles; let us see miracles performed, and then we will believe," forgetting that all the miracles that Moses did were completely eclipsed by those which Jesus did while he was on the earth as the God-man. Then there were certain Judaizing teachers who, in order to win the Jews, preached circumcision, exalted the Passover, and endeavored to prove that Judaism might still exist side by side with Christianity, and that the old rites might still be practiced by the followers of Christ. So Paul, who was "all things to all men so that by all possible means he might save some," put his foot down, and said, in effect, "Whatever others may do, we preach Christ crucified; we dare not, we cannot, and we will not alter the great subject matter of our preaching, Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

That is a very good word from Spurgeon.

But I have a difficult time believing that he is asserting what you think he is, for the simple reasons that :

A : other things that he said pertaining to the subject

B : He was a strong advocate of limited atonement.

Spurgeon - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/6/4 11:54

It is only a pure and perfect law that the Holy Spirit can use in order to show to us our depravity and sinfulness. Lower the law and you dim the light by which man perceives his guilt. This is a very serious loss to the sinner rather than a gain, for it lessens the likelihood of his conviction and conversion.

You have also taken away from the law its power to shut us up to the faith of Christ. What is the law of God for? For us to keep in order to be saved by it? Not at all. It is sent in order to show us that we cannot be saved by works, and to shut us up to be saved by grace; but if you make out that the law is altered so that a man can keep it, you have left him his old legal hope, and he is sure to cling to it. You need a perfect law that shuts man right up to hopelessness apart from Jesus, puts him into an iron cage and locks him up, and offers him no escape but by faith in Jesus; then he begins to cry, "Lord, save me by grace, for I perceive that I cannot be saved by my own works." This is how Paul describes it to the Galatians: "The Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." I say you have deprived the gospel of its ablest auxiliary when you have set aside the law. You have taken away from it the schoolmaster that is to bring men to Christ. No, it must stand, and stand in all its terrors, to drive men away from self-righteousness and constrain them to fly to Christ. They will never accept grace till they tremble before a just and holy law; therefore the law serves a most necessary and blessed purpose, and it must not be removed from its place.

Re: , on: 2016/6/4 12:38

Hi PP,

I think therein lies the problems on calling upon the great names of the past in order to back up what we believe doctrinally. I completely reject limited atonement but it does not take away from the fact that I consider Spurgeon to be a wonderful man of God and a wonderful preacher of the Word, does that make sense?

Would you like me to post the whole sermon that I took the quote from? I would be happy to do that PP.

Bottom line for me, I think Whitfield and Wesley and Spurgeon and Tozer and A.B. Simpson and others were all wonderful men of God and He used them mightily. Now we know they cannot all have been right in regard to certain "doctrines of

men,' but we can respect them and learn from their walks.....bro Frank

Re: , on: 2016/6/4 13:16

The discussion here has really blessed me and I love all the iron sharpening iron :-)

I've had to reassess my thinking and make sure I get to the crux of the matter when giving my testimony. And thank you Frank and Blaine for giving yours. It's amazing how they are so different but the same.

To quote brother Frank:

"Calvary, the power to heal.
Calvary, the power to forgive.
Calvary, the power to cleanse.
Calvary, where the Lord humiliated the enemy.
It was Calvary before
and it was Calvary afterward
and it is Calvary forever.
The Son of God triumphing over hell and death and sin.
This is why Calvary lies at the very heart of who we are,
the beating heart of every Christian is the finished work of Calvary alive in them.
Out of death sprung life and that more abundantly."

This is the crux, of all matter: the finished work on the cross by Jesus Christ.
Hallelujah

I thank our Lord for you all for reviving me!!!
Sis L

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2016/6/4 13:22

Hi Frank

RE: ///I think therein lies the problems on calling upon the great names of the past in order to back up what we believe doctrinally. I completely reject limited atonement but it does not take away from the fact that I consider Spurgeon to be a wonderful man of God and a wonderful preacher of the Word, does that make sense? ///

I am not saying that I am in agreement with Spurgeon on limited atonement, (I never came to a strong conclusion one way or the other on the subject of limited v unlimited)

I only pointed out that he strongly held to limited atonement : because you referenced him and by doing so an allusion was given that he held to the position that you are advocating.

I would not see how someone such as Spurgeon who held to limited atonement : could be in agreement with your interpretation of the scriptures, that you are using to make your point.

that is all that I was pointing out.

RE: ///Would you like me to post the whole sermon that I took the quote from? I would be happy to do that PP.///

A link would be sufficient,
what was written was excellent as is the majority of Spurgeon's works, but let's be careful as not to read into his writings more than he intended, obviously his view is understood by harmonizing all of his writings.

RE: /// Bottom line for me, I think Whitfield and Wesley and Spurgeon and Tozer and A.B. Simpson and others were all wonderful men of God and He used them mightily. Now we know they cannot all have been right in regard to certain "doctrines of men,' but we can respect them and learn from their walks.....bro Frank ///

This is true, but I am not aware of any of the above that taught what you are advocating.

With the exception of Simpson,(more research needed) quotes have been provided to prove that all the above mentioned were of the same understanding as myself on the subject. Which can best be summed up by the last post of Spurgeons that I posted

Re: The law - posted by RogerB (), on: 2016/6/4 14:59

The law still puts us to death. We must all die to self as Jesus example. Yet we live because of Him.

Re: , on: 2016/6/4 17:03

PP, lets just disagree on the great men of the past and what they thought. We each have our thoughts and that is good enough for me. Phillip's quote early on is where I am and obviously I believe it and I believe all the great men believed it.

"If Christ alone is not enough, then we make God a liar.."

Do you agree in that one line PP? If you do, great, if you dont then we shall agree to disagree.....bro Frank

Re: , on: 2016/6/4 17:07

Glad you were blessed sister Leslie as was I with your testimony. I love testimonies because they are open and honest and transparent and it shows our own actual understanding of Scriptures and how they have worked out in our own lives . To many times folks just hide behind quotes of what other men believed rather than just tell us how what they believe played out in their own lives. Testimonies humanize us and bring us closer together, theology and doctrine and arguing about them and bringing in our surrogates to prove our own points tends to puff up and separate us.....bro Frank