

1 CORINTHIANS

Seeing Life through the Mind of Christ

The Cross as a Lens to the Heart of God

1 Corinthians 2:1-9

- Who was “Paul” and the church at Corinth?
- Paul:
 - Fierce persecutor of the early church. Acts 9
 - Miraculous conversion - “Damascus Rd”
 - After conversion; evangelist, church planter. Wrote 13/27 NT books.
- Church at Corinth:
 - Capital City of Greece. Roman Empire.
 - Formed 50-58AD. Acts 18.
 - Growth pains: divisions, good/bad theology
 - Paul writes to establish Body of Christ.



(Constantinople)
Byzantium

BITHYNIA

Nicaea

Neapolis

Philippi

MACEDONIA

Amphipolis

Thessalonica

Berea

Mt. Olympus▲

GREECE

ACHAIA

Corinth

Delphi

Athens

Corinth

Cenchreae

Sparta

Samothrace

Apollonia

Troy

Troas

Assos

MYSIA

†Pergamum

†Thyatira

†Smyrna

†Sardis

†Philadelphia

†Ephesus

Hierapolis

Trogyllium

Laodicea

Miletus

Colossae

Cos

Cnidus

RHODES

Patara

Myra

Perga

Attalia

GALATIA

CAPPADOCIA

LYCAONIA

CILICIA

Antioch

Iconium

Lystra

Derbe

Tarsus

PAMPHYLIA

CYPRUS

Salamis

Paphos

Phoenix

Fair Havens

Clauda

CRETE

Salmone

Lasea

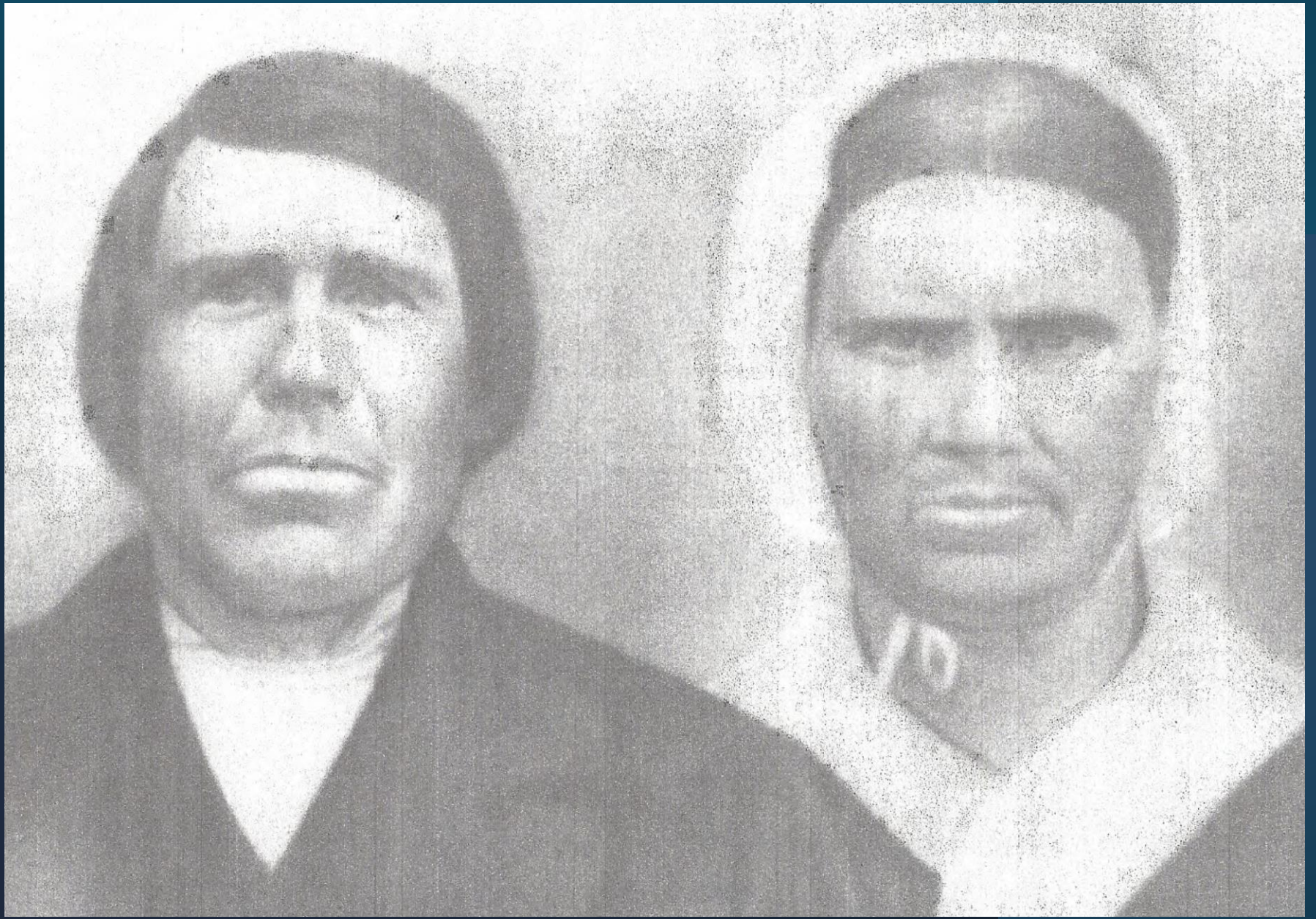
PHOENICIA

GALILEE

SAMARIA

JUDEA

Mediterranean
Sea



Bethany Lane Baptist Church

ELICOTT CITY MD. YEAR OF OUR LORD 1943

**GOD
IS ALIVE!**

Donnelly Adv.



Swipe up to unlock







1. The cross had a story behind it for Paul. The cross offers a glimpse into the heart of God. He is always reaching for us and often times the only time we grab his hand is in our lowest or most wayward moments. V2:1-2.

The story of the cross goes like this:

- A. **Sin separates us from a holy, loving God**, much like a relationship broken by one of two people. We are the hurting party in the broken relationship. Our sin is against God, and only God can offer forgiveness. We can only receive it. Forgiveness restores and reconciles the relationship as if we had never sinned against God. Rom 3:23, 6:23
- B. **Jesus died on a cross, taking our sins upon himself. It is as if, from God's point of view, Jesus committed our sins.** Death is the sentence that Jesus is given as he stands in the place of all humanity, for all time, past, present, and future. **Jesus is God's remedy for the sin that separates us from Him.** 1 John 2:2, Rom 3:25
- C. **When I turn to Jesus**, in faith, I am forgiven. He takes my sins. He gives me his righteousness. Acts 2:38, 2 Cor 5:21

US



GOD

OUR PROBLEM

Sin
Romans 3:23

Death
Romans 6:23

GOD'S REMEDY

Romans
5:8

J
E
S
U
S

1st Peter
3:18

OUR RESPONSE

Believe &
Confess
*Romans
10:9-10*

Repent &
Baptism
Acts 2:38

RESULTS IN

Eternal life
No judgment
Death to life
John 5:24



2. Satan's snare is for us to minimize our sin; or, to see it by comparing ourselves to people around us. We must see sin through the lens of God rather than the lens of humans. We are all in need of being rescued by Jesus Christ from our own sinful desires, self-will, and condemnation. Isaiah 53:5-6



3. God has empowered the cross by the death of His only son, Jesus, on it. It is by the wounds of Jesus that we are healed, made whole, given hope, and can walk in God's will and purpose for our lives. The cross unites believers into the family of God in Jesus, forever. 1 Cor 1:18, 12:13, Isaiah 53:5

- ## Summary:

- A. The cross had a story behind it for Paul. The cross offers a glimpse into the heart of God. He is always reaching for us and often times the only time we grab his hand is in our lowest places.
- B. Satan's snare is for us to minimize our sin; or, to see it by comparing ourselves to people around us. We must see sin through the lens of God rather than the lens of humans. We are all in need of being rescued by Jesus Christ from our own personal desires, self-will, and condemnation.
- C. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross has empowered the cross. It is by the wounds of Jesus that we are healed, made whole, given hope, and can walk in God's will and purpose for our lives. The cross unites believers into the family of God in Jesus, forever. Believers must embrace that power in faith.

- Next steps:

1. Have you embraced the power of the cross in your life? You can only do so by believing what God has said and what he has done for us in Jesus. Believing is trusting God.
2. Is Jesus reaching out to you today? Why not “grasp his hand” by opening yours? Do that by praying back to him and asking him to meet you in your need, today.
3. How can you share the power of the cross in your life with someone who is struggling in theirs? Will you be intentional this week about giving testimony of what God has done in your life?



The Corinth Canal, carrying ship traffic between the western Mediterranean Sea and the Aegean Sea. It is 4.0 mi in length and only 70 ft wide at its base, making it impassable for most modern ships. It has little economic importance in the modern-day.

- What happens if we receive and believe the testimony of God about Jesus crucified in our place?
- 1 Jn. 5:10-11 Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has *made him a liar*, because he has *not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son*.¹¹ And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and *this life is in his Son*. (ESV)

- Paul – “ ... as to righteousness under the law, blameless...
- Paul’s “story,” his testimony.
 - Phil 3:7 But *whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.* ⁸ Indeed, *I count everything as loss* because of the *surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.* For his sake I have *suffered the loss* of all things and *count them as rubbish*, in order that *I may gain Christ*⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but *that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith-*