

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.**
(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)*

#03-0960

The Absolute Success of the Cross #5

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This series is about why I see the cross of Christ as an absolute success in the eventual salvation of all mankind. This is the last of this series; however, it is not the end of the proof that could be offered.

Through Him to reconcile all to Him, making peace through the blood of His cross.
(Colossians 1.20 CV)

The blood of His cross has brought peace to all, which includes not only mankind but all God's creatures, including His messengers. Who of mankind is excluded from this peace? Do we exclude the vilest sinner, as if Christ's blood could not reconcile such a one to God? Again, it does not say that all are reconciled at the same time, just that all are reconciled.

If you don't believe that the vilest sinner can and will be saved according to the will of God and not the will of man, then consider Paul, the foremost among sinners who became our apostle. By his own account, Paul was the chief among sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). He was not trying to be humble but was stating a fact. He was the worst of the worst. He persecuted the church of God, even to death, and compelled some to blaspheme (Acts 22:4; 9:1; 26:11; 1 Corinthians 15:9). Ultimately, he persecuted the risen Christ, the Son of God. How do we know this? Because Jesus declared so as He blinded Paul on the road to Damascus! Consider Paul's testimony.

And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. (Acts 22.7-8 KJV)

In spite of all that Paul did, the Lord chose this persecutor and overwhelmed his ignorance and unbelief, and not only saved him but put him into the most glorious service anyone has ever been given in the ecclesia of God. Paul alone is proof that God will save the vilest sinner, not because of his free will choice but because God wills it so.

“WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.” For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. (Hebrews 2.6-9 NASB)

For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15.25-28 NASB)

Christ suffered death for all and now is crowned with glory and honor. Because He has been crowned, all things are subjected to Him; there is nothing that is not subject to Christ. He tasted death for **everyone**. Again, people will say that this is true, but to benefit from it, sinners must believe in this age; otherwise, they will be forever lost in an eternal hellhole. But if all things have been subjected under His feet and He has tasted death for everyone, then does it not follow that one day all sinners will

come out of death and into life? After all, Christ will reign until He has abolished death and put all things in subjection, so that God may be **All in all**.

And he shall reckon with him that bought him from the year that he was sold to him unto the year of jubilee: and the price of his sale shall be according unto the number of years, according to the time of a hired servant shall it be with him. ... And if he be not redeemed in these years, then he shall go out in the year of jubilee, both he, and his children with him (see Leviticus 25.47-54 KJV).

Even the law of God as seen in the jubilee makes provision for the redemption of one sold into servitude. According to God's law, there is a limit to how long one must remain in bondage. In the year of jubilee, such a one shall be set free. Is this not a beautiful picture of the grand jubilee that will occur at the consummation of the eons when all mankind is brought into the family of God?

Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven." (Matthew 18.21-22 NASB)

Here we see the principle of jubilee as well. Seventy times seven represents ten jubilees. Jesus laid down the principle that in the jubilee, all debts are forgiven. Sin is a debt; therefore, all the debts of every sinner must eventually be forgiven.

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. (Genesis 12.3 KJV)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.... (Ephesians 3.14-15 NASB)

Through Abraham, the father of a multitude of nations, all the families of the earth will be blessed. There is no distinction made over their condition before God. It is as if Paul picked up on this same theme and was caught up with the thought that all the families of the earth and in heaven are named. Receiving a name from God is clearly an indication that one is in the family of God. But notice that for Abraham, it was **all** families, and for Paul it was **every** family.

The last enemy that will be abolished is death. (1 Corinthians 15.26 NASB)

But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living." (Matthew 22.31-32 NASB)

Our God is the God of the living. How can He be the God of the dead and death remain a power in His creation? Death must be abolished, and so it will be at the consummation of the eons. In that day, no one can remain in any state of death; all must come out of death.

"And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed. (Daniel 7.14 NASB)

Notice that the kingdom is about all peoples, nations and men of every language.

At the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2.10-11 NASB)

"Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance. (Isaiah 45.22-23 NASB)

Notice that every knee will bow willingly and every tongue will confess willingly. Also, notice that this refers to all the ends of the earth. Who are we to exclude from this all? Paul merely picked up this truth through Isaiah the prophet. This is God's will, and His word will not turn back. It shall be done!