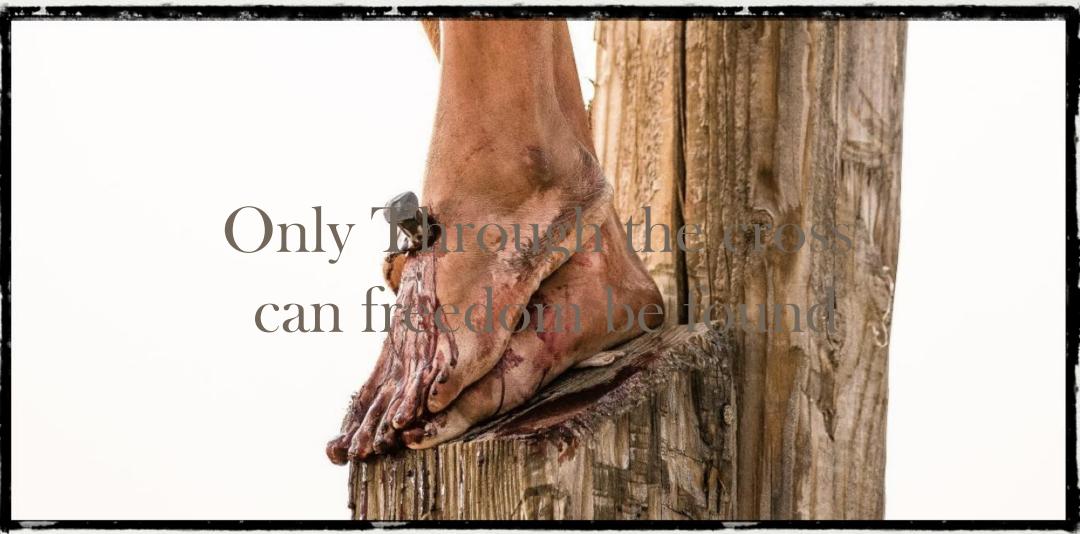


The Cost of our Freedom

The Cross



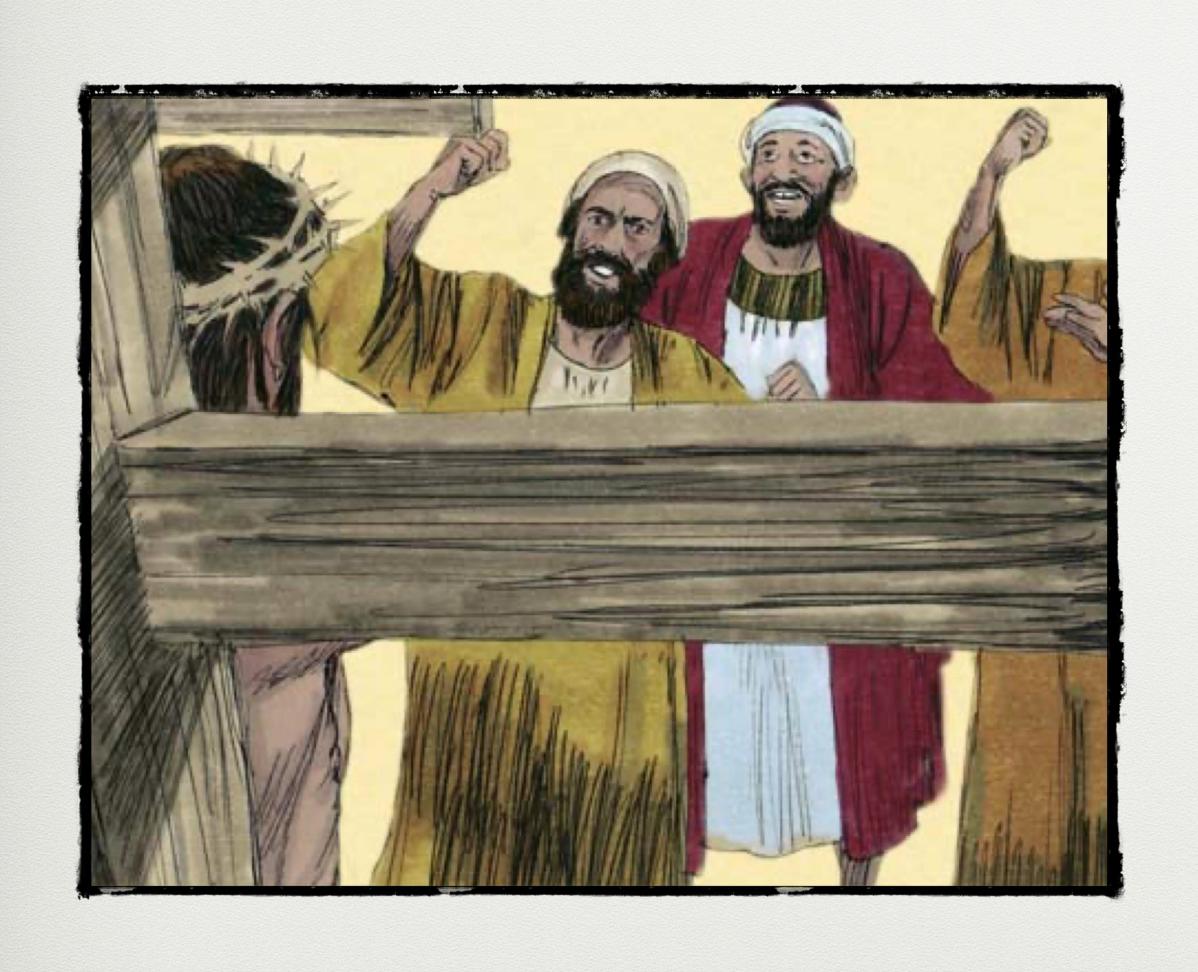






- Without the pain...
- Without the sacrifice...
- Without the power of the resurrection and His final victory of sin and death...
- We would still live defeated, we would still be groping in darkness, we would still be bound.





- To some in the world the cross makes no sense...
 - 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 - "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."

- To others in the world the cross is an offense. They are offended by the sacrifice. They are offended by the Truth that Jesus paved the ONLY way for us to be saved. They hide under the false belief that there must be another way to come to God.
 - 1 Peter 2:1-8
 - "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone." 1 Peter 2: 7



- To many people the cross of Christ stirs up hatred. There has always been and continues to be an intense attack on those who call themselves followers of Christ.
 - Acts 7: 51-60 The Stoning of Stephen
 - "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you." John 15:18-25



The world does not comprehend this one truth

- The world CANNOT overcome the power of the Cross and the resurrection of Christ.
- The world will never conquer Christ it cannot hide Him away or pretend He doesn't exist.
- The power of Christ is incapable of being shut away, ignored, forgotten or destroyed. Ever.



- Jesus' sacrifice at the cross is a bridge for us a way to God
 - It gives us the opportunity to have a personal relationship with the very God who made us and who loves us.
 - Without the cross, there is no way to cross over to the other side into a relationship with Him any attempt will fail.
 - He is the ONLY way.



- Jesus gives us *the only way* to get out of sin and into righteousness
- John 13:36 14:6
 - "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." John 14:6

- It provides opportunity for forgiveness of sin
 - Ephesians 1:3-14
 - "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace..." Ephesians 1:7

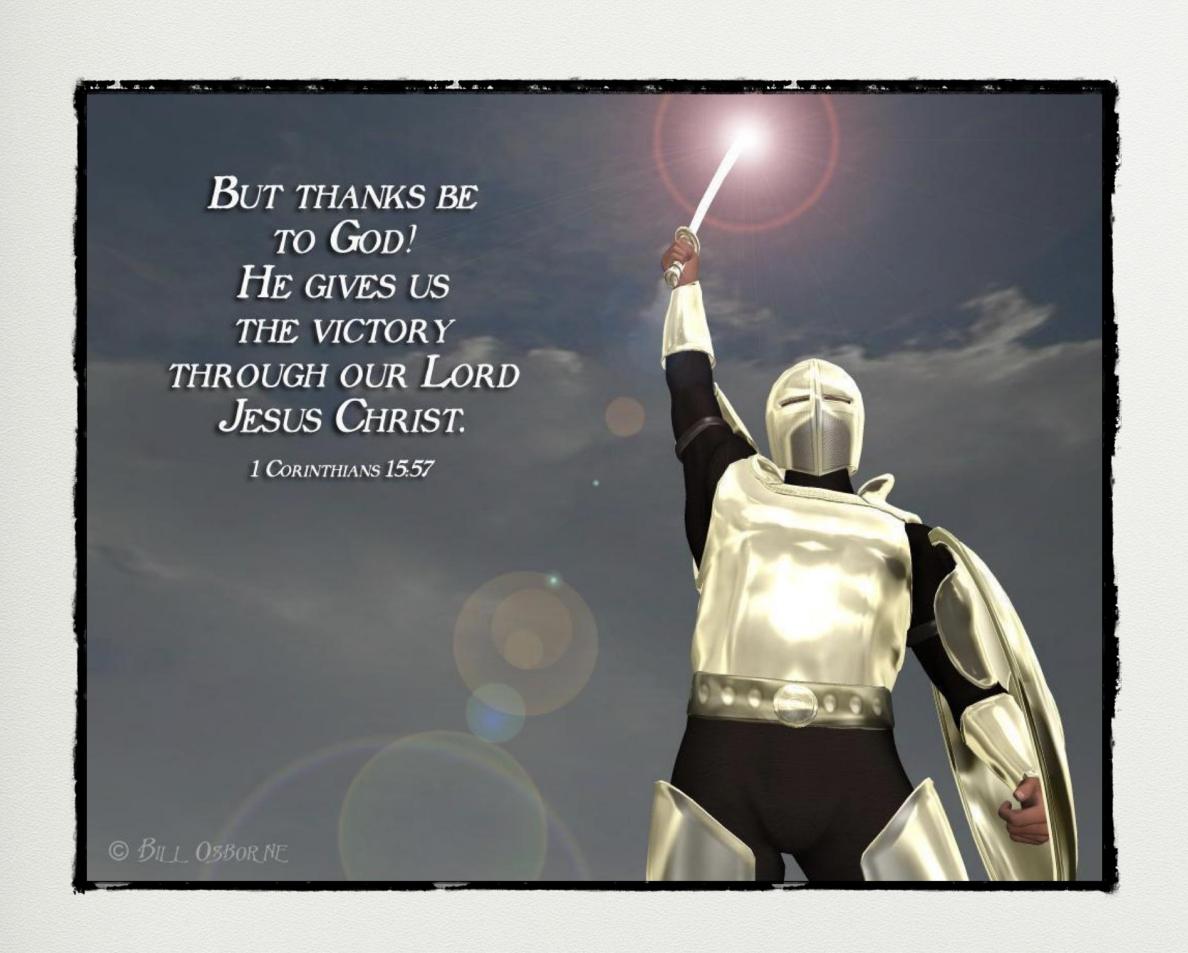




- It provides FREEDOM to all those who believe
- John 8:31-38
 - "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36

- It provides new life. We are not only forgiven, cleansed and set free, but we have awhile new life and destiny through Christ.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:14-17
 - "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, the new things have come." 2 Corinthians 5:17





- It provides the way to have victory over the enemy.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:50-58
 - ... "but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 15:57

- It provides for us an eternal heavenly home
- 1 Corinthians 2:6-9
- "...no eye has seen, nor ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9





In Christ, we have FREEDOM