

# Faith and Works XLVI

The Contemporary and Biblical Contexts

Col. 2:8

# Surgery

The cross isn't merely a matter of changing life style, habits or outward behavior, which many times are just symptoms of deeper issues, no, the cross is taking the axe to the root of the tree. We have to come to that place of conscious weakness where our realization of and reliance on God's strength is perfected.

It is the place where we come to realize that it is not just our actions that we must die to, but the motivation for our actions, which is who we are, what we have inherited from the first Adam.

God has placed all sinners in Christ and crucified the old sin nature on the cross with Christ. It is in our court, it is our decision, by faith, to reckon that old nature and our dependence on it, dead, of no longer any value. We are to gladly trade it all for the pearl of great price, the treasure offered us in Christ.

If we continue to seek to study to show ourselves approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed in how we handle the Word of God in the scriptures of the Bible, we must remember that the Bible refers to the Word of God as the sword of the spirit.

Do we really want a sharp sword? Surgery is painful, and in the realm of the spirit it is not always the case that what is cut away is in itself a bad thing. God prunes the branches that are bearing fruit, tries our faith which is more precious than gold, even with fire that all that is not gold will be burned away.

Do we really want the sword sharp enough that we are able to cut between soul and spirit, bone and flesh? It is here that we start to develop an awareness between the spiritual and carnal mind. We are to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. The mind set on, focused on, which bases all evaluations on behalf of the flesh and how it measures itself by itself, is death.

The mind set on the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, which focuses on Christ, abides in Him, partakes of His divine nature by resting by faith in the promise of new life in Christ, is life and peace.

Truth sets free. The truth of the revelation of God in the face of Christ which the Holy Spirit would witness to our spirits within these earthen vessels is the truth that would free us from this body of death that we have inherited from the first Adam.

Those seeking God's aid as a means of only improving their peace and safety and continuance in this temporal fallen system have not had a revelation of their need to secure eternity through saving faith in the Gospel and union with Christ. They have not yet come to understand the extent of our need to be born again in the new life God offers us in Christ.

Instead many are seeking God to patch up, rejuvenate, and empower the old life on the old foundation that they were born with. But unless one starts anew on the foundation of Christ, unless one is born again, they cannot see the kingdom of God.

Religion is the process of man seeking to bind himself by his own works to God. Enmity, strife and jealousy come about when we measure our works by those around us. Cain slew his brother because Abele's deeds were righteous. The fruit of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus comes when we surrender to the realization that all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God, and that only in Christ and clothed in His righteousness can man once again come before the Father.

The process of learning to separate between life in Christ, and the life we live in the flesh based on all that we are from the first Adam. It is the ability to discern between our own pride and ego which attempt to complete themselves, and abiding in Christ, being complete and resting in His finished work.

Works based on the flesh will make us defensive and judgmental of others, and focus our attention not on Christ, but ourselves.

Life in the spirit is joy and peace as we work for God not for what He will do in return, but in return for what He has already done in Christ on our behalf when He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf that we might be the righteousness of God in Him.

**Galatians 2:15-21** We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

“But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

**Colossians 3:1-4** If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18** Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

**Romans 8:31-39** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written:

“ For Your sake we are killed all day long;  
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Luke 12:22-34** Then He said to His disciples, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?

“And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.