

## The Cross the Vindication of God Col. 2:15

The cross is the supreme instrument of the glorification of God. It is the supreme revelation of wisdom of God. It displays His truth, justice and holiness; it showcases His power, grace and love.

- What but divine wisdom could've devised so perfect a way of strictest justice and purest mercy meeting? What but divine mercy could design and accomplish a union between perfect divinity and sinless humanity? **Vv. 9-10.**
- It is indeed the darkest irony that the unbeliever calls it folly while enjoying the temporary shelter it affords from the wrath of God. Err long he shall be forever disabused of foolish fig leaves of presumption and arrogance. **Cf. 3:5-6.**
- The believer glories in the cross. It is the means of his deliverance from the clutches of sin, from servitude to Satan and from the pollution of the world. **Vv. 11-14.**

The cross is this, not only because of what it accomplishes in the lower regions of earth, the world of humanity. Paul reminds us it is the supreme instrument of glorification because of what it accomplishes among the angelic beings.

1. **The cross was the complete defeat of the kingdom of darkness.** It is said to be a triumph! **Cf. Ps. 68:18; Isa. 53:12.** The image is of a conquering Roman General returning from battle. It was:
  - a. An invisible cosmic struggle took place at the cross. **Cf. Lk. 22:53.**
    - i. **The battle begun in the garden. Cf. Gen. 3:15.** In the garden Satan robbed and captured God's image bearer. He made man a slave of sin, subject to death and took authority over the world. **Cf. 2Cor. 4:4; Job 1, 1Jn. 5:19; Matt. 4.**

- ii. **The cross was the decisive defeat.** At the cross Satan was cast out (**Jn. 12:31**) he was thrown down to the earth (**Rev. 12:9**) and bound (**Rev. 20:1-3**).

2. **At the cross the kingdom of darkness was *disarmed*.** **avpekdua ,meno j.** To '*strip off.*' His power was broken.
  - a. He lost rightful control over the world. **Cf. Matt. 28:18; 1Cor. 15:21-28.**
  - b. He has lost the enslaving power sin gave him over us. **Cf. 1Cor. 15:56; Ro. 6:6-10.**
  - c. He has lost the intimidating threat death once held over us. **Cf. He. 2:14.**
3. **At the cross the kingdom of darkness was disgraced.** "**Open shame**" has the idea of being exposed; being held up to ridicule or mockery. How does the cross do this?
  - a. By showing their foolishness and evil of rebelling against God. The devil was filled with jealousy and ingratitude. He passed himself off as competent to contend with God. What did it come to? **Cf. Matt. 8:29. Jd. 6; Rev. 19:20; 20:9, 10.**
  - b. The attempt to disgrace God resulted in the exact opposite. They tried to make God look as though He could be trifled with. He defeated and punished them. They tried to question His morality. His truthfulness was vindicated. They presented God as petty and small. He raises us higher than Adam.
  - c. God demonstrated the superiority of His wisdom over theirs. They were simply no match. He defeats and delivers by their own weapons.