

“WHAT DOES THE CROSS MEAN TO GOD, OUR FATHER?”

MARCH 2, 2022

Introduction

1. The turning away of God's _____.

Romans 3:24-26 - *And are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

1 John 4:8 - *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

Psalms 11:5 - *The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.*

Hebrews 7:23-28 - *The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.*

2. The demonstration of God's _____.

Romans 6:23 - *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 3:26 - *It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

Habakkuk 1:13a - *You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong.*

3. The outpouring of God's _____.

Romans 3:23-24 - *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*

Ephesians 4:7 - *But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

Augustine did not deny that fallen man still has a will and that the will is capable of making choices. He argued that fallen man still has a free will but has lost his moral liberty. The state of original sin leaves us in the wretched condition of being unable to refrain from sinning. We still are able to choose what we desire, but our desires remain chained by our evil impulses. He argued that the freedom that remains in the will always leads to sin. Thus in the flesh we are free only to sin, a hollow freedom indeed. It is freedom without liberty, a real moral bondage. True liberty can only come from without, from the work of God on the soul. Therefore, we are not only partly dependent upon grace for our conversion but totally dependent upon grace.” (R.C. Sproul)

Conclusion