

The Impact of the Cross
Sunday a.m. 3/25/2018

Pray for Redemption City Church, Baltimore (Adam Muhtaseb)

➤ **An impact can be positive or negative**

✚ A natural disaster can make a negative impact on the economy

✚ A new plant can make a positive impact on the economy

✚ A tackle for loss of yards can be a positive impact

✚ A tackle that causes an injury is a negative impact

✓ An impact changes surroundings

✓ An impact changes a community

✓ An impact changes a life

■ **Sin made an Impact on the World**

✚ **God created Adam and Eve and they lived in the perfect world that God made, the Garden of Eden**

❖ God said do not eat fruit from tree of knowledge of good and evil

Genesis 2:17 (NKJV)

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Genesis 3 tells the story of Satan's temptation and Adam and Eve's failure to obey God by eating the fruit of that tree

✚ **The result of their disobedience was sin that was passed to every person**

Romans 5:12 (NKJV)

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

❖ The first prophecy of Christ is given in **Genesis 3**

- **A Redeemer was needed to remove our sin**

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)

And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel.

- ✧ **Paul says this Seed is Jesus who would give victory over sin and the defeat of Satan (Galatians 3:16)**

- ❖ A picture of the cross is seen in God's provision of clothes for Adam/Eve

Genesis 3:21 (NKJV)

Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin and clothed them.

- ✚ The clothing was a gift (grace)
- ✚ The clothing was a substitute for their clothing (substitution)
- ✚ The clothing was a result of shed blood (atonement)

- ✧ **The impact of the cross was from the very beginning**

■ **The Impact of the Cross is the Revelation of God**

- ✧ **Man has never been able to find God**

- ❖ The Tower of Babel was built so man could reach God
- ✓ The first man in space, Russian astronaut Yuri Gagarin, was given credit with saying, "I went up to space, but I didn't encounter God."
- ✓ But, it was Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev that mockingly said, 'Why didn't you step on the brakes in front of God? Here is Gagarin, who flew up to space, and yet, even he didn't see God anywhere.'
- ✓ Yuri Gagarin, who was a Christian, said, "An astronaut cannot be suspended in space and not have God in his mind and his heart."

- ✧ **God came to man, revealed to man, through the cross**

- ✓ Physicist Stephen Hawking recently died at age 76.

- ✓ Hawking battled ALS for 55 years and was asked if he was afraid to die

He said, "I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail. There is no heaven or afterlife for broken down computers; that is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark."

- ✓ Hawking said a creator is "not necessary" since we have science
- **Hawking could not find God in his great intelligence**

✧ **It was not enough for God to exist, nor be creator or all knowing, wise, Holy or just, but God was revealed as the One that could forgive our sins**

- **The impact of the cross enables us to have a relationship with God**

■ The Impact of the Cross is the Power of Christ's Death

- ❖ We must share the gospel with the conviction that Jesus Saves

✧ **Our uncertainty of the cross weakens our ability to witness**

Corinthians 1:23-24 (NKJV)

²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

✧ **Only the Gospel can change a life for eternity and we must have confidence that the cross represents that power**

- ✓ The book and movie, Unbroken, tells the story of Louie Zamperini
- ✓ Louie was a world class runner who qualified for the 1936 Olympics
- ✓ He retired from the sport and joined the U.S. Air Corps as a bombardier in the South Pacific during World War II
- ✓ Louie's aircraft crashed into the Pacific Ocean on a routine reconnaissance run, where he and another crew member survived in a life raft for 47 days, floating over 2,000 miles

- ✓ Louie and the other airman were captured by the Japanese, where Louie spent two years being tortured as a Japanese prisoner of war
- ✓ He returned to Torrance, California after the war to a hero's welcome.
- ✓ He turned to alcohol to drown the nightmares of the torture that were driven by hatred for his oppressors (today PTSD)
- ✓ Louie was one of 350,00 people that attended Billy Graham's two month crusade in Los Angeles in October of 1949
- ✓ His wife had trusted Christ during one night of the crusade and she encouraged him to attend
- ✓ The first night he attended he walked out at the invitation, but his wife got him to go back the next night

☆ Here are Louie's words

- ✚ But the next day she was all over me. After about three hours of argument, I finally said, "Okay, I'll go back, but under one condition: When that fellow says every head bowed and every eye closed, we're getting out of there," and she agreed. So back we went and, again, he's quoting the Scripture...
- ✚ So, I got mad again and I grabbed my wife and said, "We're getting out of here." We started out, but at the same time, I knew what I should do.
- ✚ I began to reflect to the life raft and the prayers around the clock for 47 days, prayer in the dungeon for 43 days, prayer in prison camp for two-and-a-half years, and making thousands of promises - then returning home and turning my back on the promises.
- ✚ Why? Because there was no longer the constant and incessant bobbing up and down in the Pacific, there was no longer the hunger and thirst and the lonesomeness. Life had changed. Life took on a new picture, so I was quick to forget the promises. But I began to think about it as I started out of that tent.

- ✚ He had also said, "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you." I said, "Well, if I can get that kind of help, there might be a chance for me."
- ✚ So, I went forward to the prayer room and first of all, I asked God to forgive me for not having kept not even one of the thousands of promises I made Him on the life raft. I then acknowledged to God that I was a sinner and then invited Christ into my life.
- ✚ And then the most remarkable thing that ever happened took place. True to His promise. He came into my life.
- ✚ "When I was still on my knees I forgave all my guards, and I knew I was through smoking, drinking and chasing women."
- ✚ That night his nightmares stopped abruptly. "The miracle that happened," he says, "it was the first time in years I never had a nightmare. I haven't had one since."
- ✚ He found his WWII Bible, walked to a local park and began to read. "I got to the crucifixion and I started crying like a baby."
- ✚ He went back to Japan and preached the gospel of forgiveness to the very guards who had tormented him during the war.
- ✚ Louie served the Lord until his death in July 2014

Close

- ❖ The Impact of the Cross is the changed change lives by the Gospel
- ✚ Jesus' death was substitutionary, He took our place on the cross
- ✚ Jesus' death was atoning, He secured the remission of our sins and reconciled us to God through His shed blood on the cross
- ✚ God "laid on him the iniquity of us all" **(Isa. 53:6)**
- ✚ It took the shed blood of a perfect sacrifice, God's Son, Jesus Christ "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" **(Hebrews 9:22)**
- ✚ The only way we can have a relationship with God is through His Son **John 14:6** "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."