Paradoxes of the Cross

Tony Mauck · Galatians 3:13

INTRODUCTION

- I speak of the cross and the resurrection of Jesus. It's what I hang my hat on.
- It's what fuels my commitment to the Lord on a daily basis. It's why I don't give up.

1 A Beautiful Curse

Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 21:22–23; Ephesians 2:16

- Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law … having become a curse for us.
- For it is written, cursed is everyone who hangs upon a tree.
- He reconciled them by the cross. What an amazing result.
- And so it is a beautiful curse.

2 What Looks Like Defeat Actually Brings Victory

Isaiah 53:4; 1 Corinthians 15:54–55; Genesis 3:15

- What looks like defeat actually brings victory to God's cause and his people.
- You shall bruise him on the heel. But what does it say … He will bruise your head.
- So where there is seeming defeat as Jesus dies upon the cross, there is in reality victory.

3 In This Death Is Life

John 1:4; Ephesians 2:12; Acts 2:37

- And yet, in this death is life. Now that's the greatest paradox of all.
- In him was life, and that life was the light of men.
- There is only life in him because of his death.
- Displaying the most awesome love that has ever been displayed. That Jesus willingly sacrificed himself.

4 In This Darkness, Jesus the Light of the World

- This picture of a beaten and helpless and dying man, but yet in this cross is our hope.
- And yet, in this error of men, the truth shines brilliantly.
- Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing.
- Today you shall be with me, he says, in paradise. Grace had never been more beautifully pictured than in that moment.

5 Marvel at God's Abilities

2 Corinthians 4:12; Galatians 2:20; Romans 12:1

- He is able to take the worst of man, the worst kind of death, and use that as an instrument to bring life to all.
- Death works in us, but life in you.
- I have been crucified with Christ, Paul says in Galatians chapter 2 and verse 20.
- We do this so that life works in others. We promote his cause.

6 God Can Trump Negative Circumstances

Philippians 1:6; Galatians 6:3; 1 Corinthians 15:10

- The cross says God can defeat that, whatever it is. For your betterment and salvation.
- God excels in making the seemingly impossible possible.
- With men, it is impossible. But with God it is possible.
- He who began a good work in me can complete it at the day of the Lord Jesus.
- In weakness, we are made strong.

THE CHALLENGE

If you will stand amazed in his presence, you'll say, Lord, what would you bid me do?

MY NOTES