

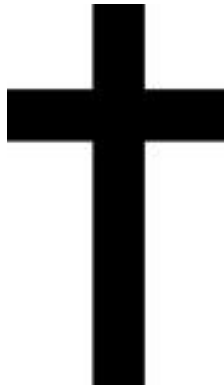
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Date



Galatians 6:14

7 Sides of the Cross



By

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Published by
TrinbagoChurch Publishers

A ministry of
**Trinidad & Tobago Christian Outreach Center
(International)**

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ISBN
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Printed in the United States of America

This book is dedicated

**To my great God and Savior *Jesus Christ*
who endured the cross for me.**

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INTRODUCTION

Apostle Paul was a leader highly respected by the Jews and earned that respect by proving that he was not ignorant of Jewish religion, and that he studied under one of the best instructors in the Jewish world – Gamaliel. Paul’s tutor, Gamaliel, was one of the most celebrated and honored Jewish rabbis, a doctor of the law. He became president of the Sanhedrin at the death of his father Rabbi Simeon. He was the 35th receiver of the traditions and of the Law given at Sinai. Indeed, Gamaliel was a man of much wisdom to learn from. And from that standpoint Paul boasted in himself, and said, *“I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day”* (Acts 22:3). These outstanding credentials gave Paul the undivided attention from his audience whenever he stood to speak. However, Paul’s life and destiny radically changed when he met with Jesus on the road to Damascus and had the revelation of the power of His cross (Acts 9). And instead of him boasting in the glory of his education, culture and religion, he stripped

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himself of all accolades and arrogance, and testified, “*God forbid that I should glory, save in the **cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world*” (Galatians 6:14 KJV, emphasis added).

Another version of the Bible says it like this, “*But far be it from me to glory [in anything or anyone] except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) through whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world!*” (Galatians 6:14, AMP).

Paul realized that his faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God (1 Corinthians 2:5). And that all glory must be to God and God alone. Paul saw something in Jesus Christ and His cross that completely liberated him. It is the same experience that inspired me to write this book. I too have found freedom and revelation through the cross of Christ. In fact, the central message of the gospel of Jesus Christ is engraved on the cross for all generations to discover. It is the Cross that stands between God and man and bridges the great gulf caused by sin. It is the cross that reconciles us unto God having slain the enmity thereby (see Ephesians 2:16). My testimony remains the same for over thirty years living and

loving Jesus, “I will glory in the power of the Cross, for through it I am saved.”

*“At the cross at the cross where I first saw the light,
and the burden of my heart rolled away,
it was there by faith I received my sight,
and now I am happy all the day!”*

(Song by Isaac Watts)

At the cross of Christ miracles really do happen. Here the divine revelation of God is conveyed. Here the burdens of life are lifted. Here the spiritually blind receive the sight of faith. And here the merciful heart of God is revealed.

But the cross is by no means new; it is as old as eternity past. It was long before darkness covered the universe, when there were no created suns and stars to light the heavens, even before God stepped out of His chamber and gazed across the sapphire sill of heaven and uttered His majestic voice, and said, “Let there be light!” the cross was deep in the heart of God.

There was a meeting between the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit. Father God spoke prophetically and said, *“We will make man in our own image.”* It was always the desire of God to create an image of Himself. The Word (*the*

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pre-incarnate Son of God - Jesus) and the Spirit were in absolute agreement with the idea, and the Father continued to share details of the plan. He said, *“After man becomes a living soul he will sin and be spiritually separated from us, this will be the consequence of his wrong choice to disobey divine Law. But I have already made the right choice for him. In the fullness of time we shall become one of them to restore and redeem our crowned creation, but a sacrifice for their transgressions shall be necessary.”* The Word immediately responded and said, *“And I will become flesh to pay the penalty demanded for their sins.”* The Holy Spirit quickly moved and said, *“And I will accompany you from Mary’s womb to Joseph’s tomb.”* The unified decision of the Trinity was sealed. Then the Word asked the Father, *“How shall this sacrifice be?”* The Father replied, *“My Son, I have already prepared the manner of sacrifice for you, it shall be crucifixion – on a cross.”* A holy hush then filled the secret place of the Most High that seemed to last forever. The Word (*Jesus, the Son*) responded: *“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me”* (see John 12:32). It was all settled, and from that moment the Ancient of Days had prepared divine destiny for fallen

humanity. Calvary was the place, Christ was the sacrifice, and the Cross was the altar. Truly, the cross was God's idea. And because there is life transforming power through the cross of Christ it is time that we return to its spiritual principles and divine revelations. It is time that preachers preach about it and Christians believe in it. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:18, *"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."*

All through Holy Scripture the cross was predicted to become the only means to redeem and restore mankind. Biblical typology of the cross and its divine purpose is clearly illustrated in the Torah, the first five books of the Bible.

In GENESIS:

- The *tree of life* in the Garden of Eden was a type of the cross. Christ's cross became the Tree of Life for all to come and take of its fruit. Psalm 34:8 says: "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."
- *The altar* that Abraham prepared to lay his son Isaac as a sacrifice to God depicted what God the

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Father would do to His Son, Jesus. The altar was a place of sacrifice – a type of the cross.

- *Noah's Ark* was a type of the saving power of the cross of Christ. Those that entered the ark were saved from the great flood, and all that enter the work of the cross are saved from hell.

In EXODUS:

- The *Mercy Seat* of the Ark of the Covenant was where God's invisible presence came and met with the Israelites. The cross was where God made visible His glory on His Son Jesus, and it is there that He will meet with all that would come by faith to receive His mercy.

In LEVITICUS:

- All the *statutes and judgments and Laws of God* required in this book became the cross that Christ had to carry on our behalf. Consequently, the demand of divine Law was fulfilled by Christ on the cross.

In NUMBERS:

- The *brazen serpent on a pole* was a type of Jesus on the cross. When the Israelites were dying from the venom of snake bites due to their sins, they were told to get to the pole and look upon it, and those that obeyed lived. The poison of the serpent typifies our sins and iniquities that God laid upon Jesus on our behalf. The pole typifies the cross that Christ was nailed to. Consequently, when we get to the cross of Christ and look to Him by faith, we shall live.

In DEUTERONOMY:

- God had set before His people *life and death, blessing and cursing*. The cross is also presented as a place of life and death, blessing and cursing. The blessing is actually Jesus; He literally carried our sins to the cross so that we might be free from its curse and have everlasting life. The curse is the eternal consequences that sinners will experience without God because they reject the only means of salvation – the work of the cross.

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It was through the cross of Christ that God's plan of salvation was put into action. It is from the cross of Christ that the hopeless finds hope and the helpless finds help. Without the cross of Christ there would be no remission of sins. Without the cross of Christ there would be no redemption for lost sinners. Without the cross of Christ there would be no reconciliation with God. The cross of Jesus Christ is God's only meeting place. Here the unholy encounters the Most Holy and is forever changed. The cross of Christ is God's trading post where the great exchange takes place. Sorrow is exchanged for joy, the spirit of heaviness is exchanged for the garment of praise, and death is exchanged for life eternal. All that was lost by Adam in the Garden of Eden is restored by Jesus at Calvary's cross. It was in Eden that man fell into sin, but at Calvary man is lifted up unto righteousness. In Eden came the curse of sickness, poverty and death, but at Calvary's cross came the remedy for health, wealth and life everlasting. It was in Eden all we like sheep had gone astray; each to his own destructive way, but it is the Cross of Christ that shows God's preferred way. Yet the symbol of the cross of Jesus Christ is an offence to many. How

unfortunate and sad that is. It is a shame and disgrace for protestant ministers to not preach the power and glory of the cross. Some purposely refrain from such sermons so that their parishioners will not be offended by its penetrating message. If the preaching of the cross is offensive then it's only because one's sin is exposed by its shining light and hammering truth. The fact remains, a cross-less life is a Christ-less life.

Yes, it is God's will for us to glory in the cross because the cross is all about Jesus, and the glory of the cross is all about divine purpose. However, to worship the cross is a grave sin of idolatry, but to worship the Christ of the cross and bear witness of the power of His cross is divine.

The symbol of the cross of Christ does not reflect a message of murder and hate but of life and love. What the devil invented and intended for evil, God turned around and used it for good. The message of the cross reminds us that God can always take the bad situations of life and turn it around for our best.

The symbol of the cross of Christ is not a pagan sign nor is it a religious charm. It does not belong to the Romans and it is not the property of the Roman Catholic Church. Christ's cross belongs to all people. The cross of Christ is

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for all nations and is the sole property of Almighty God. It was prepared before the foundation of the earth and remains the center of God's redemptive plan. This divine symbol reflects God's sacrificial love for all humanity. Christ's cross transcends every cultural and ethnic barrier; it speaks all languages and is not prejudice. Truly, the cross is the devil's worst nightmare and still remains man's best friend.

The cross of Christ is symbolically seen as the Tree of Life in the Genesis account. If Adam and Eve had eaten of that tree, they would have lived forever (Genesis 3:22-24). So God placed Cherubims and a flaming sword to guard the tree from Adam's fall. This measure was quickly taken by God to hinder Adam and Eve from getting to the cross. The reason being, if they had eaten the fruit of this tree in their fallen state they would have had faith in the tree and not God. The cross is never to be the object of our faith. The object of our faith is Jesus. So God waited for the fullness of time to send His Son Jesus to fulfill His great plan. And the cross returned with Him to fulfill its purpose.

Praise God for the power of the cross. If there were no cross there would be no remission of sins. If there were no