

Overview: The cross is the center of the temple compound and the altar is the center of the universe thus, ultimately the cross is the center of the universe. God terminated the all of the creatures in the old testament for the building. The Apostle preach the Christ of the cross. God deals with and governs everything by the cross. The cross is only way. The cross of Christ has the effect and releases the life. These cross leads us to the Body of Christ and leads us to the deeper experience of the cross for the building.

I. According to the record in Ezekiel, the altar is the center of the compound, the center of the premises of the temple:

A. The altar is the center not only of the inner court but also of the whole premises of the temple.

B. The altar, which signifies the cross, is actually the center of the universe:

1. The altar is the center of the temple compound, the temple compound is the center of Jerusalem; the city of Jerusalem is the center of the good land; the good land is the center of the inhabited earth; and, as far as the relationship of God and man is concerned, the earth is the center of the universe; thus, ultimately the altar is the center of the universe.

2. Since the altar signifies the cross, the cross is the center of the universe.

3. The death of the Lord Jesus on the cross was not the death merely of one person; it was an all-inclusive death involving God, man, and all the creatures—

II. The principle of the cross is that by the cross everything of the old creation and all things related to us have been terminated, put to death

III. The crucified Christ was the unique subject, the center, the content, and the substance of the apostle's ministry:

A. The death of Christ has become God's power to eliminate all the problems in the universe; thus, Christ crucified is God's power to abolish all negative things and carry out His plan:

1. The human way of solving problems is to negotiate, but God's way is to terminate; the best way to solve problems among people is to terminate everyone involved

2. The crucifixion of Christ has silenced the entire universe and simplified the extremely complicated situation in the universe

B. When we experience the crucified Christ, all that we are, all that we have, and all that we can do are completely terminated, and His resurrection life is imparted through us into others

IV. In His economy God gives us one person—Christ—and one way—the cross:

A. The one person—Christ—is the center of God's economy, and the one way—the cross—is the center of God's government:

1. God governs everything by the cross and deals with everything by the cross

2. By the cross God has dealt with all the negative things in the universe, and He is still governing everything through the cross

3. In the church life Christ must be all and in all, everything that is not Christ must go to the cross

4. Through the cross we need to become nothing, to have nothing, and to be able to do nothing; otherwise, what we are, what we have, and what we can do will become a substitute for Christ

B. In the book of Colossians we see a clear vision of the cross as God's way in His administration:

1. "Through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross—through Him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens":

a. To reconcile all things to Himself is to make peace with Himself for all things;

this was accomplished through the blood of the cross of Christ. **b.** Because we were sinners, we needed redemption, and because we were also enemies of God, we needed reconciliation

2. "Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross":

a. Ordinances refers to the ordinances of the ceremonial law with its rituals, which are the forms or ways of living and worship

b. Nailing it to the cross means to abolish the law of the commandments in ordinances.

C. "Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it":

1. This verse portrays the fighting that took place at the time of Christ's crucifixion:

a. Activities involving Christ, God, and the evil angelic rulers and authorities were brought to a focus on the cross; thus, the cross became God's eternal, central, and unique way. **b.** At the same time, the evil rulers and authorities were busy in their attempt to frustrate the work of God and Christ, pressing in close to God and Christ; thus, a warfare was raging at the cross.

2. God openly made a display of the evil angelic rulers and authorities on the cross and triumphed over them in it, putting them to shame

V. In Matthew 27:51-53 we see the effect of Christ's crucifixion:

A. "The veil of the temple was split in two from top to bottom", which signifies that the separation between God and man had been abolished because the flesh of sin taken by Christ had been crucified.

B. "The earth was shaken", which signifies that the base of Satan's rebellion was shaken.

C. "The rocks were split", which signifies that the strongholds of Satan's earthly kingdom were broken.

D. "The tombs were opened", which signifies that the power of death and Hades was conquered and subdued.

E. "Many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised", which signifies the releasing power of the death of Christ.

VI. In the Gospel of John we see the life-releasing aspect of Christ's crucifixion:

A. The water that flowed out of the Lord's pierced side is for imparting life, dealing with death, and producing the church

B. As a grain of wheat, the Lord Jesus fell into the ground and died in order to produce many grains for the church

C. The bone is a symbol of the Lord's resurrection life, which nothing can break; this is the life with which the church is produced and built

VII. The cross leads us to the Body of Christ:

A. The cross operates in the sphere of the Body:

1. The work of the cross goes as far as the Body of Christ and consummates with the Body of Christ

2. Not only does the work of the cross bring us into the Body, but also the Body becomes the realm within which the cross works

B. In the Body of Christ we cannot go on without the cross:

1. The cross will dig away our natural life, our own activities, and any disproportionate growth

2. Life and work in the Body necessitate drastic dealings with the flesh, and such dealings necessitate a deep knowledge of the cross of Christ

3. The restriction of the Body will take away our freedom and drive us to the cross

4. All of God's dealings with us have been with a view to prepare us for the Body; all His work in us is a process of elimination so that we can become functioning members of the Body

5. If our natural life is dealt with by the cross and if we submit to the headship of Christ and live the Body life, we will have the Spirit's anointing and enjoy the fellowship of the Body

VIII. Although we meet the cross everywhere in our Christian life, we experience the cross in a particular way when we come to the altar at the center of God's building:

A. To come to the altar at the center is to realize that all that we are and all that we have, have been terminated at the cross

B. In our fellowship with the Lord, we are brought to the point where we touch the cross in a definite way and sense that God will no longer allow us to live in our natural man

C. As we pass through the cross, our flesh, our old creation, our self, and our natural man with the natural life will all be dealt with

D. This is the experience of the cross—the center of the universe

I. エゼキエル書の記録によれば、祭壇は宮のある場所の中心であり、宮の範囲全体の中心です:

Heb. 2:14 ...through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil, (Day1)

II. 十字架の原則は、十字架によって、旧創造のあらゆるものと私たちに関するすべてのものが終結させられ、死に渡されたということです。

2 Cor. 5:21 Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (Day1)

1 Pet. 2:24 Who Himself bore up our sins in His body on the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed.

III. 十字架につけられたキリストは、使徒の務めの唯一の主題、中心、内容、本質でした:

1 Cor. 2:2 For I did not determine to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this One crucified.

1 Cor. 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, (Day2)

IV. 神のエコノミーの中で、神は私たちにひとりのパーソン(キリスト)と一つの道(十字架)を与えています:

Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all. (Day3)

Col. 1:20 And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross— through Him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens.

Col. 2:14 Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.

15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

V. マタイ第27章51節から53節において、私たちはキリストの十字架の効力を見ます:

Matt. 27:51 And behold, the veil of the temple was split in two from top to bottom, and the earth was shaken and the rocks were split, 52 And the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.

53 And they came out of the tombs after His resurrection and entered into the holy city and appeared to many.

VI. ヨハネによる福音書において、私たちはキリストの十字架の命を解き放つ面を見ます:

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water. (Day4)

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.

Eph. 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church, 30 Because we are members of His Body.

VII. 十字架は私たちがキリストのからだへと導きます:

1 Cor. 1:18 For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Cor. 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually. (Day5)

1 Cor. 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

VIII. 私たちはクリスチャン生活において至る所で十字架に直面しますが、神の建造の中心にある祭壇に来るとき、特別な方法で十字架を経験します:

Rom. 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

Gal. 6:14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. (Day6)

預言のためのノート

Experience①: God deals with and govern all things with the cross

Human life is filled with problems and entanglements. Simply to be alive is to encounter problems and troubles. This is true not only in the married life and family life but also in the church life. According to the human way, negotiation is the means of solving problems or resolving entanglements. A brother and his wife may attempt to solve problems in this way. However, this is not the divine way. God's way is to supply you with Christ and terminate you by the cross. Whenever there is a problem in the family life or in the church life, the natural man may immediately try to negotiate and solve the problem through conversation. By the Lord's mercy I can testify that whenever I face this temptation, deep within I have the sense that there is no need for me to talk or negotiate. My only need is to go to the cross and be terminated. Then Christ comes in with the supply to solve every problem.

For junior high and high school students

In the school life of junior high or high school students, there are always problems and entanglements between teachers and students, among classmates, between parents and children. Since the Millennium is not yet to come, there is no perfect order yet. Because this world is the kingdom of Satan, there must be disorder and confusion. Church is the kingdom of God which is growing now, so the church life may not have perfect order yet. God's will in this situation is that you show leadership to rule over the chaos and bring order to the situation by exercising Christ's wisdom and sovereignty. To make this happen, you need to experience these three things:

i) Experiencing the cross: God has dealt with all the negative things in the universe through the cross. And He is still governing everything through the cross. To solve any problems or entanglements of human relationship with others, the first thing you should do is to go to the cross and experience the cross. For example, you see bullying in your class and you are wishing to save that student who is bullied. This thought you have, seems you have a sense of justice and seems right, but still you must go to the cross first, because God is not present in your thought, even if you have a good intention. And your natural characteristics are biased and unbalanced. You can pray, "O Lord Jesus! I try to solve a problem by discussions, but God wants me to go through the cross, because God governs and deals with everything on the cross. My method and wisdom are extremely inferior comparing to God's method and wisdom. Moreover, my method is impossible to produce the Christ who is the resurrection. Lord Jesus, open my eyes and help me to pass through the cross and to enter into resurrection. Amen."

1Cor1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

ii) Being saved in Christ's life: After experiencing the cross, you will be saved subjectively in the resurrection life of Christ from old man, self, and natural life. You have already been saved positionally, so you will no longer perish. But after being saved by believing and being baptized, you need to grow up by dispositional salvation.

Rom5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

iii) Reigning in Christ's life: You also can reign all persons, things, and matters. Please experience from your junior high/high school time, "the cross → being saved in life → reigning in life". Do not think these are too high and they are not relating to me who is full of mistakes. Those mistakes can be removed through your confession. May you experience this by faith. Amen!

Rom5:17 ...much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Experience②: Experience the cross at the center of the building of God

I am grieved that although many of us have heard messages about the cross, only a few among us truly live a crucified life. For example, we may not live a crucified life in our married life. If a married brother and his wife argue with each other, this indicates that they are not living a crucified life.... Those who live a crucified life do not vindicate themselves when they are attacked or criticized. They experience the termination of their Adamic life and of the old creation through the death of the cross and enjoy God's riches and His divine element, which were released through the cross. When some, especially young people, hear this word about the altar, they may be frightened and think that it is better not to love the Lord and seek Him.... They may fear that it would be dangerous to reach the altar and become a burnt offering. We need to realize, however, that since the Lord has had mercy on us, we cannot escape Him.... While we were wandering in the world, having no intention of entering in through the gate, the Lord brought us through the gate. Apart from our own choice, we believed into Christ. This is altogether a matter of God's selection, of His mercy, and of His reaching us with His care. The principle is the same in our loving the Lord and pursuing Him.... The more we love the Lord and pursue Him, the more we are satisfied. This also is a matter of the Lord's mercy. Because of His mercy to us and His operation within us, we have no choice except to go forward; we cannot turn back. If we do not advance toward the altar but instead try to go back to the outer court, we will feel uncomfortable. Therefore, we need to go on and on until we reach the altar.

For young working saints

The earth is the center of the universe, Jerusalem in the Middle East that connects Asia, Europe and Africa is the center of the earth. The building of God is the center of Jerusalem; the altar is the center of the building of God. So the altar is the ultimate center of the universe. And after passing the altar, we will enter the temple and will contact God himself in the Holy of Holies. When you come to the altar in the center of the building of God, you experience the cross in a special way.

For example, in the course of a normal church life, the Lord blessed your business life; for you to have good income and good working environment. You thank the Lord for His blessings. But at the same time, through receiving the light of the Lord in the intimate fellowship with Him, you realized that good occupation and good income are nothing, even you yourself is nothing. Your old man has no room for improvement and there is absolutely no hope at all.

Jeremiah13 :23 Can Cushite change his skin, / Or the leopard his spots? / Then you also may be able to do good, / Who are accustomed to do evil.

And good income as well as good working environment do not exist because of your goodness; but you just know that they are from the grace and blessings of God.

1Cor15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

There is nothing for you to boast about.

1Cor1:31 That as it is written, "He who boasts, let him boast in the Lord."

You will know you can only experience the release of the law of the Spirit like Paul in Romans 7 to 8, when you are totally disappointed in yourself. Come to the altar at the center of the building of God and experience the cross in a special way.

Rom7:19 For I do not do the good which I will; but the evil which I do not will, this I practice. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inner man, 23 But I see a different law in my members, warring against the law of my mind and making me a captive to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death? 8:1 There is now then no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

