

Thank you for joining us for a time of devotion and prayer, from our home into your home. Most of us, not all, but most of us are confined to our homes. It is one crucial way of trying to keep one's self healthy by avoiding being contaminated by the virus. Last week, Christmas lights were put up again outside of our home in hopes to brighten the darkness of our time. The lights are absolutely gorgeous. We also put out our Christmas cross that shines brightly with Christmas lights. It is the cross of Jesus and His resurrection from the dead that I wish to refer to in these next few minutes together and hopefully the comments might light up our time today.

The first message of the cross that I hear and see these days is this. Every person needs the Lord Jesus in their souls because of Jesus' work on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. To put it bluntly, every person needs Jesus. It is only in knowing Jesus that life makes sense. We all have a virus that is going to kill us, and the virus is called sin. The Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Jesus paid on the cross the wages of our sin. It was a price only a sinless person could pay. He paid the penalty so we will live forever. Yes, we have the virus called sin. The Good News is Jesus has the cure and Jesus Himself is the cure. Anyone who believes in Jesus will never die. Jesus rose from the dead guaranteeing eternal life for all who receive the Lord Jesus into their lives. The next time you look at a cross please think, that is God's sign to me that I will never die. After I breathe my last breath on earth, I will be more alive than ever and all because of Jesus. We may have symptoms of the virus of sin in this life after coming to Christ, but they are only symptoms. God's grace has cured the disease and one day all the symptoms will be gone too.

The second message I see and hear today is this. Jesus bore all our sins on the cross. Being at home has given me time to think about a number of things I do not normally think about. The bad part of this is I remember my previous sins, mistakes, failures, ways that I have let God down and the rest of you. I find myself rehearsing my sins in my mind; this can be quite

unhealthy. The enemy, Satan, is called the accuser in the Bible. He loves to accuse us of our previous blunders in order to discourage us from living for Jesus in the present shining brightly with the light of Christ. He would rather have us walking in a dark stupor than the vibrant light of Jesus. The Bible says, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." The sins that I am rehearsing in my mind are sins that Jesus long ago forgave. Jesus died on the cross two thousand years ago and spiritually speaking, those sins were covered by Christ's perfect blood at Calvary. Jesus said, "It is finished." Friends that work of Jesus on the cross literally covers all our sins and God promises never to hold them against us again. The Bible says, "And I will remember their sins no more." If you find yourself rehearsing former sins in your mind, you are listening to the accuser. If we ever remind God of our forgiven sins, I so like what this song says. I am quoting the words of Morgan Cryer who deserves all the credit for what I am about to read.

It happened so long ago
And I cried out for mercy back then
I plead the blood of Jesus
Begged him to forgive my sin
But I still can't forget it
It just won't go away
So I wept again, "Lord wash my sin, "
But this is all He'd say

What sin, what sin?
That's as far away
As the east is from the west
What sin, what sin?
It was gone the very minute you confessed
Buried in the sea of forgetfulness

The heaviest thing you'll carry
Is a load of guilt and shame
You were never meant to bear them
So let them go in Jesus' name
Our God is slow to anger
Quick to forgive our sin
So let Him put them under the blood
Don't bring them up again
Cause He'll just say

What sin, what sin?
That's as far away
As the east is from the west

What sin, what sin?
It was gone the very minute you confessed
Buried in the sea of forgetfulness...

The first time I heard this song at the Moody Church, tears flooded my eyes. Friends, all your sins are forgiven and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead proves it. Once we confess them to Jesus, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. "You are forgiven"

The third message of the cross that I hear and see today is this. All suffering is temporary. All suffering is temporary. Jesus suffered terribly on the cross, yes. Three days later he rose from the dead. Even the suffering of Jesus was temporary compared to the great glory to come. The resurrection means Jesus has already overcome all illnesses, diseases, suffering and even death. Yes, our suffering here is temporary and will one day give into the greatest of glory. All suffering is temporary.

The last message I hear and see of the cross is this. The cross is a Christian sign of victory. It took great power to raise Jesus from the dead. We call it resurrection power. We as Christians on this side of heaven can experience ever more so now the resurrection power of Jesus Christ that raises us up to overcome the obstacles and hardships we face living in a fallen world. There is victory through Jesus' resurrection power working in and through us. Who knows you might be the brightest Christmas light any non-believer can see and they will want to know the secret of your brightness. The answer is easy. Jesus is the Light of the world and Jesus lives inside of you, the secret to life eternal. Amen and Amen.