



March 27, 2016 - EASTER

Colossians 2:13-14 (TLB)

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Thank you so much for visiting our website! Here is an excerpt of my notes from Pastor A.J.'s sermon, "***Cross View.***"

Colossians 2:13-14 (TLB)

"You were dead in sins, and your sinful desires were not yet cut away. Then He gave you a share in the very life of Christ, for He forgave all your sins, and blotted out the charges proved against you, the list of His commandments which you had not obeyed."

What is your perspective of the cross?

We have all heard stories about Jesus the Christ; about how He died on the cross. The problem with hearing these different perspectives is in how we interpret or understand what we are being told because we have no point of reference. It's like trying to describe a tree to a person who has been blind from birth.

"An encounter with the cross is a life changing experience!"

You don't have to live a life of defeat, despair and discouragement. A true encounter with the cross will encourage you to let go of what's not working for you and allow you to grab hold of what Christ has for you. Fear will make you continue to hold on to physical things because you find comfort in having something tangible in your life, even if it's not God's best. Tangible things are those things we can see, touch, taste and feel. This is the world's system. God wants us to live by faith. He

wants us to first believe and then receive. God is saying let go of that because He has something better on His side!

To read the full sermon notes, [click here!](#)

We pray that Pastor A.J.'s Message will bless you the way it blessed us! Please come back again next week for more from "LaKesha's Pen" with another inspiring message.

Yours in Christ,
LaKesha Johnson-Lewis

Full Sermon:

Cross View

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In Colossians, Paul is writing to the church of Colossae. The church of Colossae was founded on the pure knowledge of God's true gospel which is Jesus the Christ. People began to creep in and add to Paul's teachings. They had their own ideas or philosophies based in tradition and rituals. They wanted to give the people a list of do's and don'ts to live by. We even find it today in churches all over the world. They say you have to go to church every Sunday, you have to wear suits and dresses, and you need to pray in tongues. Christ came and fulfilled the law and requirements so we could be given a new life in Him; free from rules and regulations. He gave us freedom to love! Free to receive the love of God, free to love ourselves and free to love others, (see Galatians 5:22-23). Have you ever found yourself at some point in life saying, "I'm going to go to church as soon as I get myself together."? That's the problem right there! A broken thing cannot fix something that's broken! Only God, the Creator can fix what He has created and He wants to fix you!

If you trust me I can fix you!

At the Cross He died for you because He loves you. He died for you because He knew you would make mistakes; He died for you because He knew you would need healing. God's desire is for us to be made whole in Him, but we have to release ourselves to be fixed by God. How? We have to begin to trust Him. It's hard I know to trust someone who you can't see, smell or touch. But God says if you just trust Me I can fix you. You don't have to start acting better, God says trust Me and I will help you make these changes. And just going to church will not make you change. Joyce Meyer says it like this, "I can sit in a garage all day but that won't make me a car." No more than going to church makes people Christians. It takes God's Word penetrating your heart and mind before you will begin to see change. You have to trust God when you don't see Him or feel Him. You have to have faith and believe. First believe He died just for you! Some people find it easy to believe God for others but when it comes down to believing God loves them and died for them, they struggle. You have to believe all of God's promises are for you. You can't earn it and you don't deserve it so stop trying to figure it out. Simply believe. God is love and love always does what is best for the recipient. God doesn't care how long you pray, how much Bible you read or what denomination you practice with. He wants your heart to trust Him! When you find yourself in difficult situations and when

everyone and everything around you is failing all God wants is for you to trust Him! There is no magic formula; no magic prayer, all God wants is your trust!

Jesus said, at the cross I died so that you can have abundant life!

John 10:10

Jesus died at the cross not just to save you but He also will show you the way. He didn't just lead us to a door but He took us through this open door. He wants to show us how to live on a day to day basis. In the Lord's Prayer Jesus says "Give us this day our daily bread." Everyday God wants to show us the path to walk. Every day He wants us talking to Him.

How important is your eternal life?

How important is your eternal life to you? Are you certain where you will be going when you die? This is very important to consider because God created us to be immortal beings. Death is just a transition from this world into next. We have to live life like we are going to spend eternity with Christ. Don't rationalize like you have all the time in the world to make a decision to live a life for Christ (Matthew 24). He can return at any moment, so stop putting off making that decision today. God can make a difference in your life if you let Him! Don't delay!

Before you come to Christ your spirit is dead, dead in sins but when you accept Jesus as your Lord he will quicken or make alive the spirit that is within you. He cuts away the earthly desires (the carnal or fleshy desires that lead to death). He wants us to begin to operate out of the spiritual realm. He speaks to us in a small voice or a knowing. Some people call it a "hunch" no that's the Holy Spirit speaking to you. That's why Christ died so we could have access to that voice, to be able to communicate with God and vice versa God can communicate with us.

God is asking you to let go of the past. Let go of that thing you haven't forgiven yourself for because He has forgiven you and sealed it from others. He hasn't brought you this far just to embarrass you, but He wants you to become a living testimony. Take all your struggles and use them to help someone else. Take all your hurts and tell others how He healed you. Even though you did it, Jesus said, "I paid the price." Even though you are guilty, Jesus said, "I took the punishment." Even though you messed up but Jesus said, "I can and want to fix it." So whatever that thing is that's been holding you back today you can let it go and go to the next level

with God. God has forgiven us both of the things we have done and the things we didn't do that we should have done.

Quit judging God by what has happened to you at church!

Let's be honest your struggle is not with whether God loves you but you struggle to love yourself and because you don't love you, you begin to seek love in all the wrong places alcohol, drugs, relationships, shopping and over eating. These are just some of things we do to cover up our hurts.

He took the list of sins and destroyed it!

God took the list of sins and destroyed it. If something is destroyed that means there is no evidence of it. So when God sees you He sees you pure and holy! He doesn't bring up the past because He loves you! All that Jesus endured on the cross, all of the pain He endured was to reunite us with God to get us back to His original design. You now can speak life to your problems and situations. You no longer have to live the life of a sad Christian. You have been empowered to live the god kind of life!

Write down the things you struggle with and today lay it at the foot of Jesus at the cross. Let it go and if the devil tries to accuse you of it you just say to him "You can't come back here again!"

Give it over to God; trust God to do what He needs to do. Don't go by your feelings exercise your authority: **I am a joy filled Christian!**

No weapon formed against you shall prosper, it will form, it will come against you BUT it won't win!