



# The Cross of Jesus— The Definite Plan of God

## I. WE CAN KNOW **ABOUT GOD** AND HIS GLORY BY SIMPLY LOOKING UP AT THE SKY, *PSALM 19:1-6*.

- (Psalm 19:1–6 ESV) 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. 2 **Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.** 3 There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. 4 Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, 5 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy. 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

## II. WE CAN KNOW **ABOUT GOD** AND HIS POWER BY OBSERVING THE CREATED WORLD AROUND US—WHAT WE SEE, HEAR, SMELL, TASTE AND TOUCH, *ROMANS 1:18-23*.

- (Romans 1:18–23 ESV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress

the truth. 19 **For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.** So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

## III. BUT WE **ONLY COME TO KNOW GOD** AND HIS GLORY THROUGH HIS PLAN—THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST, *ACTS 2:22-24*.

- (Acts 2:22–24 ESV) Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 **this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of**

**God**, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

- (1 Corinthians 2:6–9 NLT) Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. 7 No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—**his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began.** 8 **But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord.** 9 That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”

**OUR COMING TO KNOW GOD THROUGH THE CROSS WAS THE PLAN OF GOD WHICH HE DETERMINED TO ACCOMPLISH EVEN BEFORE CREATING OUR WORLD.**

#### IV. ONLY **“IN CHRIST”** DO WE KNOW GOD AND RECEIVE THE BLESSINGS OF GOD, **EPHESIANS 1:3-14.**

- (Ephesians 1:3–14 ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 **even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **In love** 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 **In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace**, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to **his purpose**, which he **set forth in Christ** 10 as **a plan for the fullness of time**, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the

purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 **In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit**, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

#### **TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORY**

**WHEN GOD CHOSE US “IN CHRIST” HE PLACED US IN POSITION TO ENJOY THE IMMENSITY AND VASTNESS OF HIS ETERNAL BLESSING—BLESSING THAT EXTENDS FAR BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION TO THE PRAISE OF HIS GLORIOUS GRACE.**

- a. God blesses those who are “in Christ” with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 1:3.
- b. God chose us to be “in Christ” before he created our world, 1:4.
- c. In choosing us to be “in Christ” God determined that we should be holy and blameless before him, 1:4.
- d. In love God predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, 1:4b-5.
- e. God chose us according to the purpose of his will to the praise of his glorious grace, 1:5b-6.
- f. God carried out his purpose in Christ exactly as necessary and at precisely the right time, 1:7-12.
- g. We find the blessing of God in one place only—in the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation, 1:13-14.

#### **JESUS CHRIST PAID THE BILL**

**OUR DEBT HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL. GOD IS NOW “FREE” TO POUR OUT HIS BLESSING ON THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN REDEEMED THROUGH HIS BLOOD.**

*He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?  
(Romans 8:32 ESV)*