

The Rope- Passing By The Burner

Colossians 1.19-22 (Msg) So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. **20** Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the Cross. **21** You yourselves are a case study of what he does. At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got. **22** But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually *dying* for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence.

1. All of us have to pass by the Cross

So spacious is he, so roomy, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. **20** Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the Cross.

Ephesians 1.7-10 (Msg) Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free! **8** He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, **9** letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, **10** a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

2. God's plan begins to open up to us when we pass by the Cross

You yourselves are a case study of what he does. At one time you all had your backs turned to God, thinking rebellious thoughts of him, giving him trouble every chance you got.

Ephesians 1.11 (Msg) It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, **12** part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

3. Our real power to live is found at the Cross

But now, by giving himself completely at the Cross, actually *dying* for you, Christ brought you over to God's side and put your lives together, whole and holy in his presence.

1 Corinthians 1.18 (NIV) For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Acts 17.28 (NIV) 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

Galatians 2.20-21 (Msg) I have been crucified with Christ. My ego is no longer central. It is no longer important that I appear righteous before you or have your good opinion, and I am no longer driven to impress God. Christ lives in me. The life you see me living is not "mine," but it is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **21** I am not going to go back on that.