

Great Controversy Series
At The End of the Cross There is A Resurrection
Chapter 12 - The French Reformation
Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr, pastor

Can Anyone Separate YOU from the LOVE of God? (Never forgot soldiers of the cross!)

Romans 8:35-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What separates us from God?

Isaiah 59:1-2

1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

God's love never excuses sin. His hand is stretched out to save ALL people. Sin separates us from God! When sin entered this world through disobedience of God's law, the "bridge" that crosses a great gulf to heaven was destroyed! The only way to reconnect us to heaven is through the plan of salvation of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 1:21

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

In order to save us Jesus had to walk down Cross Ave to build that bridge. Cross Ave is a rugged and very narrow road that Jesus walked, but as he got closer and closer to the great gulf that separated us from God stood a heavy splintered old rugged cross.

The time of the fulfillment of the prophecy was at hand

Isaiah 53:3-6

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

The time had come! The fulfillment had to take place. If not, there was NO hope for humanity! The OLD RUGGED CROSS on Cross Ave came to view in Jesus mind. It was time for Jesus to DRINK the BITTER CUP!

On His last journey to Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus often came to pray and commune with God he began to stagger and stumble. His disciples who were journeying with Jesus never saw Him in this type of condition before. They all questioned in their minds, "what is wrong with Jesus? Is he sick? Got a virus?" Only a few days before Peter, James, and John saw Jesus in all of HIS glory on the Mt of transfiguration. Now this is

totally opposite. Their minds are now shocked as they saw great drops of sweat like blood begin penetrate through His skin! Now at the entry of the garden, Jesus instructed the disciples to wait while Peter, James, and John entered into the garden with Him.

Matthew 26:38-44

- 38 Then saith he unto them, **My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.**
- 39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, **O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.**
- 40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, **What, could ye not watch with me one hour?**
- 41 **Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**
- 42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, **O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.**
- 43 And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.
- 44 And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Jesus had to DRINK the BITTER CUP on CROSS AVE. and on the CROSS!

The condemnation of the sins of every single person on this planet was on shoulders of Jesus Christ (approximately over 14 billion souls!). This is why Jesus was EXCEEDING sorrowful. He emotionally FELT the sorrow of EVERY SINNER! The sorrow of sin is guilt, shame, sadness, sickness, misery, pain, and death. Jesus carried all of this on His shoulders.

Matthew 8:17

17 **That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.**

Jesus felt EVERY ounce OUR sins! EVERY ounce of your guilt and shame. EVERY ounce of your heart ache and pain. EVERY ounce of your misery, depression, and fear. EVERY ounce!

What was in the CUP? What were in the “ingredients” of the BITTER CUP that Jesus had to drink in order to save us?

There are three main ingredients in the bitter cup!

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Ingredient 1) ALL our sins on the shoulders of Jesus, separated Him from His Father! Jesus FELT the deep anguish of being separated from God!

Isaiah 53:10

10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Ingredient 2) Jesus felt the wrath of God poured without the mixture of mercy for every soul!

Revelation 12:12 ...Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Ingredient 3) Jesus felt the wrath of Satan because of His mission to save us and His righteousness. He felt the hatred, false accusations, and temptations that Satan throw at him especially through flesh and blood whom he came to save!

Hebrews 4:15

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus greatly felt the wrath of Satan in the garden. He tempted him greatly. “Look at you, you look sick! You don’t need to go to the cross. Your ministry was a failure and you are about to be betrayed by one of your own! Stop now! I got your back! Look, your disciples are sleeping!” Even when Jesus hung on the cross the wrath and temptations continued.

In Summary, What are the Three Main Ingredients in the BITTER CUP of Jesus?

- 1) Separation from the Father
- 2) The WRATH of God
- 3) The WRATH of Satan

In Gethsemane Jesus poured out his heart and TOOK THE BITTER CUP. “Not MY will, but thine will be done!”

But before Jesus went to the cross what did He prophesy would be a the end of the cross?**Luke 9:22**

22 Saying, **The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.**

Praise the Lord. At the end of the cross there is a resurrection! Jesus dead and rose again so we can have live through the dead burial and resurrection of Jesus!

In order to realize the fulfillment of the resurrection of Jesus in your life what AVENUE must you take? What does Jesus say in the next verse.

Luke 9:23

23 **And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**

If you want the resurrection you must bear the CROSS. NO CROSS, NO RESURRECTION unto everlasting life! If you want the resurrection of Jesus by faith that leads to everlasting life, you must go down CROSS AVE. You must travel down this narrow road daily keeping our eyes fixed on the author and finisher of our faith, Jesus Christ, as we follow Him. The Word of TRUTH is a lamp unto the feet and light on this narrow road. At the end of the road there is a resurrection unto everlasting life.

Cross Ave. or Broadway?**Matthew 7:13-14**

13 **Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:**

14 **Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few [puny] there be that find it.**

As you travel down the narrow Cross Avenue you also must drink from the “CUP”. You must take a sip of only one ingredient from cup that Jesus drank from. When you accept the salvation of Jesus the cup that Jesus gives you on Cross Ave is BITTER, BUT IT IS SWEET. The cup that Jesus had to drink was bitter all the way through with no mixture of sweetness. But OUR CUP flavored Sweet and Sour.

If we had to drink from ALL three ingredients in the Bitter CUP that Jesus had to drink from NONE of us would survive. Remember, what was in the bitter cup of Jesus? 1) Separation from the Father, 2) The WRATH of God, 3) The WRATH of Satan

Through the salvation plan of Jesus we don't have to drink the first two ingredients from the bitter cup of Jesus. He DRUNK it for us.

What was bitter to Jesus is so so SWEET for us.

1) We don't have to be separated from God. Jesus says in Matthew 28:20 "I, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

2) We don't have to experience the WRATH of God because Jesus became sin for us! He died so we can live. Because of his death, burial and resurrection, we can have LIFE! This is so SWEET! There is NO condemnation through Jesus. This is from bitter to sweet. Amen

Psalm 119:103 How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

What are those words that make it SO SWEET?

Psalms 19:7-10

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: **sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.**

What is the only ingredient that we have to drink that is from bitter cup that Jesus drank?

The WRATH of Satan!

2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

John 15:20 "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you..."

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

While in prophetic vision of the last day prophecies John got a taste of this sweet and sour experience!

Revelation 10:9-10

9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

Even though we MUST drink the bitterness of Satan's wrath from the CUP while we travel the narrow road of CROSS AVE, don't forget the sweetness of mercy that is in the cup, JESUS, hope, salvation, and eternal life. And remember at the end of Cross Avenue there is a resurrection!

All of God's people who held on to TRUTH from Genesis until now have drunk from the sweet bitter cup while following Jesus on CROSS Ave. The patriarchs drunk it, the prophets drunk it, apostle drunk it, the pure New Testament church drunk it, all martyrs drunk it, you MUST DRINK IT TOO, but it is mixed with sweetness.

What CUP does those who chose to go down BROADWAY and reject the true Jesus drink from?

Colossians 3:5-6

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

Those who are on BROADWAY and continue in sin will drink ALL of the ingredients of the CUP that Jesus DRUNK From 1) Separation from God 2) Wrath of God 3) Wrath of Satan

This BITTER cup is poured without mixture.

Revelation 14:9-10

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

This bitter cup is eternal death. This bitter cup is condemnation!

Which cup do you want to drink from the bitter cup that is sweetened by the blood of Jesus or the bitter cup as a result of remaining in sin?

All the protestant reformers choose to drink from the sweet and bitter cup: Wycliffe, Huss, Martin Luther, Zwingli and many others! They all had to go through some sweet and bitter experiences during their Christian journey as they revealed the truth from God's Word and exposed the errors of the papacy! They felt the wrath of Satan, but they had the assurance of God Word. All were persecuted and some martyred. Those who were not martyred may have felt the pain and heart ache of losing a child, spouse, love one, or close friend. But they all understood has they drunk the sweet and bitter cup on CROSS AVE that at the end of the road there is a resurrection!

Martin Luther understood this as his thirteen year daughter, Magdalena, nicknamed "Lenchen" ("Little Dear") died in his arms. Magdalena was the third child of six children of Luther and his wife Katharina. This death of extremely bitter for Luther, but as he walked on CROSS Ave, he still tasted the sweetness and at the end of the cross he knew there is a resurrection!

Martin Luther's journey on CROSS Ave since the nailing of the 95 these on the door of the castle church on Wittenburg, Germany on October 31, 1517 was not an easy but he endure and went forward in the protestant reformation. There were many bitter experiences on his journey, but the sweetness continued to remind him, "at the end of the cross there is a resurrection!"

Bitter Cup in Germany after Princes Protest Show map

The princes protest and confession in Spires and Augsburg Germany was a great victory for the protestant reformation throughout Germany.

The Word of Truth was sweet and spread throughout the country but the bitter cup of Satan wrath through the papacy, brought contention and blood shed throughout the county.

But ALL the true reformers bravely held the torch of truth until death because they ALL knew that at the end of the cross there is a resurrection!"

The French Reformation

French Reformer Jacque Lefevre

Through out Europe the more Satan tried to stop the protestant reformation the more it grew with force.

In France before the time of Martin Luther the reformation had already spring forth with power through the ministry of Jacques Lefevre.

Lefevre (1455 – 1536) born in France became an ordained Catholic priest and later taught at the University of Paris

While researching ancient literature at the university Lefevre was led to the Bible. This encounter changed his life forever.

Like reformers before him and after the study of the Bible it opened the God's truths to his mind and exposed the errors of the papacy.

In 1512, before either Luther or Zwingli had begun the work of reform, Lefevre wrote: "It is God who gives us, by faith, that righteousness which by grace alone justifies to eternal life." GC - 212

Lefevre Teaches Bible Truth to Students

Lefevre taught many of his students what he learned from his studies of the Bible and exposes errors of the papacy.

William Farel was one of his students who later became a great protestant reformer in Geneva, Switzerland. Farel later mentored and encouraged John Calvin in the great reformation in Geneva.

Later Lefevre translated the New Testament of the Bible in French

William Farel

Before Farel's conversion he was a very devote Catholic and he hated anyone who opposed the papacy, but through the ministry of Lefevre he embraced Bible truth and exposed papal error.

Farel went about France publicly declaring what he learned.

Queen Margaret of Navarre

Margaret was the sister of the King of France, Francis I. She was one of the nobels who embraced the reformation of Lefevre.

Guillaume Briçonnet – Bishop of Meaux

Known as the Bishop of Meaux, a high ranking bishop and other of nobility were led to the light of truth in France as a result of Lefevre and Farel

Lefevre NT French Bible was printed in Meaux and the bishop of Meaux spared no expense to make sure it got into all his churches in was in charge of and people

Throughout Meaux people were in their homes and small groups studying God's word instead of going to the bars and other places of entertainment. They were hungry for the truth!

Because of Queen Marguerite the papacy flames were put into check for a time as the flames of truth spread throughout Meaux and beyond

The papacy's check was temporary, the stake was set up. The Bishop of Meaux bitter cup of the flames or to recant was right before him. What will he do?

He recanted! He did not want to drink for Christ bitter cup! He fell off the CROSS Ave! Looked at self

Despite the bishop of Meaux recantation and rejection of the reformation because of the threat of the flames, many in his churches held on to the truth anyway and opposed many of the errors of the papacy.

Many of the bishop of Meaux church members drunk the bitter cup of the flames by faith they knew that at the end of the cross there is a resurrection!

Louis de Berquin

A French lawyer from the noble class was like many a devout Catholic follower of the papist, but like many other reformer his study of the Bible changed things in his life through the ministry of Lefevre.

"The most learned of the nobles of France," his genius and eloquence, his indomitable courage and heroic zeal, and his influence at court,--for he was a favorite with the king,-- caused him to be regarded by many as one destined to be the Reformer of his country. Said Beza: "Berquin would have been a second Luther, had he found in Francis I a second elector." "He is worse than Luther," cried the papists.--Ibid., b. 13, ch. 9. More dreaded he was indeed by the Romanists of France." - GC - 216

Francis I king of France wavered back and forth between the reformation or the papacy

As a result Berquin was thrust in and out of prison by the papacy three times and then released to the king.

With danger on every side Berquin went on and fought for the truth.

Berquin Showdown with the University of Paris Theologians

From the writing of the papal professors at the University of Paris Berquin found twelve errors in those writings that opposed the Bible.

He challenged to a debate in which King Francis I would be the judge. It was accepted! The papal theologians taught that they would easily embarrass Berquin, but the Bible that Berquin presented turned the tables, they were embarrassed and defeated.

King Francis I appeared to be moving more and more to the reformers side, BUT....

"Just at that time an image of the Virgin at the corner of one of the streets, was mutilated." There was great excitement in the city. Crowds of people flocked to the place, with expressions of mourning and indignation. The king also was deeply moved. Here was an advantage which the monks could turn to good account, and they were quick to improve it. "These are the fruits of the doctrines of Berquin," they cried. "All is about to be overthrown--religion, the laws, the throne itself--by this Lutheran conspiracy." GC - 217

Berquin - Flames or Recant like Bishop of Meaux

Francis I got out of town and Berquin was arrested. He was in the hands of the papacy!

But the time had come. The bitter cup of the flames were lifted to the lips of Berquin will he burn or recant?

The stake was set and ready. A great crowd gathered to see this event. One of the greatest nobleman of France was going to the stake.

Berquin decided to drink the bitter cup of the flames because he had faith that at the end of the cross there is a resurrection!

Dressed in his best like a prince he preceded to his place of execution with peace and happiness on his face.

“As the procession moved slowly through the crowded streets, the people marked with wonder the unclouded peace, and joyous triumph, of his look and bearing. "He is," they said, "like one who sits in a temple, and meditates on holy things."” - GC -218

Berquin’s example gave more courage to the reformers of France. "We, too, are ready," said the witnesses for the truth, "to meet death cheerfully, setting our eyes on the life that is to come." GC – 219

Persecution of Meaux and Paris

The persecution in Meaux and Paris spread. Many of the reformers were scattered to other parts of France and the surrounding countries such as Germany and Switzerland.

In God’s providence Lefavre went to Germany while his ex-student Farel went to small hometown in eastern France until he later went to Geneva, Switzerland.

John Calvin

Educated to be a minister in the Catholic church from his youth in France

He was appointed as a chaplain of a local French church when he was only twelve years old.

Quiet and timid but very smart. Calvin was the pride of the papacy. He was devoted to the papacy and hated all who would defy the authority of the Catholic church.

One of Calvin cousin’s introduced him to the reformed faith. Calvin did not accept it at the time, but a seed of truth was planted.

Not longer after Calvin had a Paul experience as he witnessed the execution of a France protestant reformer at the public square in Paris. He noticed the peace and joy on the martyr’s face. Something he deeply desired that the papacy could not provide.

Looking for what the martyr’s possessed he went to the source of the martyr’s faith, the Word of God, the Bible.

The study of the Bible changed Calvin’s life. He learned about the TRUE Jesus of salvation.

Calvin became a student and writer of the word of Truth, but try to avoid public ministry.

He left Paris to a small town under the protection of princess Margaret

Moved by the Holy Spirit of Truth, Calvin went from house to house sharing the truth of salvation. As a result the reformation truth spread.

Calvin went back to Paris with the truth, where Lafavre and Farel once taught, but later had to leave. God through Calvin was giving the capital of France another opportunity.

Princess Margaret Paris palace evangelism

The king was still wavering between the reformation and the papacy. Margaret while the king was not in Paris had a Protestant minister hold protestant reformation evangelistic services at the palace! Many flocked to the palace.

Upon the king’s return he allowed the meetings to continued. The Holy Spirit was moving with power upon

Paris. The king had other churches opened up.

“Never before had the city been so moved by the word of God. The spirit of life from heaven seemed to be breathed upon the people. Temperance, purity, order, and industry were taking the place of drunkenness, licentiousness, strife, and idleness.” {GC 222.2}

The papacy was not quiet and schemed and threatened.

For two years the protestant evangelism of truth was wide open in Paris, but the majority of those in Paris rejected it.

The Posters of the Errors of the MASS

One night posters of the errors of the Catholic mass was posted all over the city of Paris. Many assumed that it had to be the protestants. Because of the negative climate against the reformation it caused a great stir in the city.

A poster was also found on king Francis I door. He was extremely angry and went on the side of the papacy all the way.

Great horror of persecution and massacre of true reformers followed throughout Paris and France. Thousands were killed in honor of the blasphemous mass!

“They were charged with plotting to massacre the Catholics, to overthrow the government, and to murder the king. Not a shadow of evidence could be produced in support of the allegations.”

On occasion the papist would have “mass” procession parade of great pomp and killed many families of the reformation as they moved down the street from house to house!

The Fruit of Paris Massacre and Rejection

About two hundred and sixty years later all that papacy and the king did was turn on them at the during the French Revolution in 1793. The papacy priest and the king was on the other side of another procession that killed many Catholic clergy and the French royalty that sided with papal Rome.

Farel in Switzerland

Farel worked as a teacher Switzerland teaching the children the Bible truth. They shared it with their parents some families accepted it but many devout to the papacy fought against it.

Farel left as teacher and went city to city, village to village. He preached in the market place, church, or sometimes to empty seats, but he went forward with the truth!

There were times he was violently taken from the pulpit or place of preaching and beaten.

“Though often repulsed, with unwearying persistence he returned to the attack; and, one after another, he saw towns and cities which had been strongholds of popery, opening their gates to the gospel. The little parish where he had first labored soon accepted the reformed faith. The cities of Morat and Neuchatel also renounced the Romish rites and removed the idolatrous images from their churches.” GC – 232

Geneva, Switzerland (show map)

“Farel had long desired to plant the Protestant standard in Geneva. If this city could be won, it would be a center for the Reformation in France, in Switzerland, and in Italy.” - GC - 232

Only allowed two sermons he was rejected by the civil authorities and the papist almost was successful at killing Farel.

Farel's evangelism efforts was short, but sowed seeds of truth that later grew in a bountiful harvest in Geneva.

Antoine Froment was a school teacher in Geneva who receive the truth of the reformation and taught it to his students. The students shared it with their parents and many accepted the truth of the Bible and rejected the papacy.

As a result, many of the reformer preachers including Farel was welcome back to Geneva. Later Calvin joined Farel in Geneva. Calvin labored there about 30 years! Geneva became a great protestant reformation stronghold, but it came with much attack by the papacy. Geneva overtime became a city of refuge for many reformers to print publications and other materials to go out to other locations and share truth!

Jesuit – Society of Jesuit

In 1540 a Catholic Order known as the Society of Jesus or the Jesuits was co-founded in Paris, France by Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier and Peter Faber. In only main mission – stop the Protestant Reformation by any means necessary.

“There was no crime too great for them to commit, no deception too base for them to practice, no disguise too difficult for them to assume. Vowed to perpetual poverty and humility, it was their studied aim to secure wealth and power, to be devoted to the overthrow of Protestantism, and the re-establishment of the papal supremacy.”
GC - 236

Pope Francis – first Jesuit pope!

The Protestant Reformation presses on! Great Controversy to be continued....

Are you a true protestant? Remember, at the end of the cross there is a resurrection!