

# The Cross God's Plan Our Sin

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us - for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree." Gal. 3:13*

*The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. Acts 5:30*

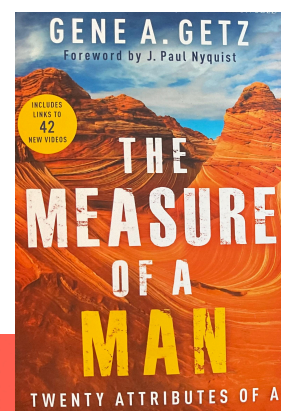
*Broken Strength Ministries*  
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**BATTLE PRIMER**

**By Paul Klassen, Broken Strength Executive Director**



The Romans instituted crucifixion as a means of capital punishment, but earlier accounts of this method exist as early as the 6th Century before Christ. Persian King Darius was documented to have crucified 3,000 political prisoners. Romans were probably inspired to use crucifixion when 500 of their own were killed in a later use of crucifixion by the Carthaginian general Hannibal. Certainly, a motivation was to publicly humiliate those who threatened those in charge, whether it be Darius, Hannibal, or the Roman government.

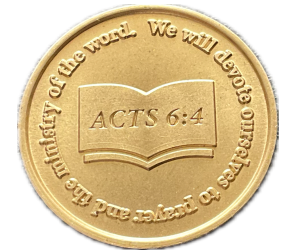
No matter the history, though, the Bible helps us see a beautiful portrait of how our God's sovereign plan and loving act of sacrifice were centuries in the making. At least 500 years before the earliest accounts of crucifixion, as part of God's instructions, Deuteronomy states that if a man is hanged on a tree for a crime, then that man is cursed by God. Certainly Jews knew, at the time of Christ, about this part of the law, yet the spiritual leaders clearly didn't make the connection until Peter accuses them. He says, "The God of



**Resource of the Month**

our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.” Hearing this, the Sadducees “were enraged and wanted to kill them” (Acts 5:30-33). Peter continues this theme throughout his ministry (see Acts 10:39 & 1 Peter 2:24). Some 15 years later, the Apostle Paul puts the final touches on this portrait by citing Deuteronomy 21:23 and stating that through faith we are redeemed from the curse of the law, redeemed from God’s curse because His own Son became a curse.

Think of it as two sides of the same coin. The Prayer Coins we hand out at our events have the cross on one side and a Bible on the other. Our view of the cross, on the one hand, ought to always be such that we see its brutality, Christ’s obedience to submit to it, and God’s sovereign plan



to display the utter destruction that sin is. Then, on the flip side of the same coin, while we’re deeply sorrowful over our sin, we have the multi-layered Scriptural truth of what life now looks like and feels like because

## Stat of the Month

**57% of pastors say porn addition is the most damaging issue in their church. 69% say that porn has adversely impacted their church.**

of the forgiveness we have in Christ. We cannot truly appreciate or accurately live out the love of Jesus if we haven’t seen or continue to

accurately see our sin for the affront to God that it is. In fact, we encourage men to carry this coin in their pocket, a reminder of commitments made as well as our constant need for God’s constant grace. Praise God that we are no longer defined by sins, but neither are we completely removed from them. *So, let’s confess, repent, worship, love, and serve, all with the same fervency and passion.*

Maybe this gives passages like Hebrews 12:2 more context and impact when we look at it in light of this portrait. We are instructed to run this race with endurance, looking at “Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy

that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

**We invite you . . .**

- *Do you know a church or individual who would like to be informed or be added to our prayer team? Send an email to [pklassen@apathtopurity.org](mailto:pklassen@apathtopurity.org)*
- *Would you like to help us continue to offer our services for free so as to help more churches broach the topic of pornography and sexual integrity? It is our goal not only to increase the conversation but to provide a solid means of hope, freedom, and victory. You may donate to the ministry at [www.apathtopurity.org](http://www.apathtopurity.org)*

## This month's updates

**Thank God with us for . . .**

- THE CROSS!
- Lots of ministry connections in March with rural churches (Paul) and Joe's connections with the Treasuring Christ Together (TCT) network of churches.
- Financial support from various sources, on a monthly, on-going, and one time basis.
- Opportunities to not only talk about God's idea of sexuality, but to promote and facilitate vital small groups and repentant cultures within churches.

**Pray to the Lord with us for . . .**

- Guidance, protection, and courage for the 7 Scheduled Events:
  - April 5-6, 2024 | Camp Lebanon Men's Advance, Upsala, MN (Paul)
  - April 8-9, 2024 | EFree North Central District Workshop, MN (Paul)
  - April 13, 2024 | Grace Church, Memphis, TN (Joe)
  - April 19-20, 2024 | Piedras Negras, Mexico Men's Retreat (Joe)
  - April 20, 2024 | (PM) Westwood Church, St. Cloud, MN (Paul)
  - April 27, 2024 | Buffalo Evangelical Free Church, Buffalo, MN (Paul)
  - May 18, 2024 | Ambassador Baptist Church, Shoreview, MN (Paul)
  - Pray for scheduling of Summer conferences and Fall church events.
- Each church with whom we interact, that they would be able to identify a "church champion" who would be the go-to liaison and resource (not necessarily expert) for all men in their local body who are seeking help.
- Discernment on how to guide churches after the events. There are many obstacles for men to engage regularly in discussions around becoming godly followers of Jesus full of sexual integrity. We want to do a better job of guiding churches in this through resourcing, coaching, and inspiration.