



TRUTH APPLICATIONS

Articles

THE CROSS, RESURRECTION, AND ENTHRONEMENT

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Healthy Christian doctrine has always rightly insisted that God's work in Christ is all-sufficient. . . . What has been unclear at times is the awareness that no matter how important and necessary the cross of Christ is, it is clearly not the entirety of the Christian gospel. To put it starkly, Christ is all-sufficient, but his cross is not. The story of God's work, his essential work, for humanity and his own glory did not end on Friday, with the shedding of . . . "the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish" (1 Pet. 1:19). Nor did it end on the first day of the week, Sunday, with the resurrection of Christ. Almost by rote many believers think they are summarizing the entire gospel if they say "death, burial, and resurrection." What about the enthronement of Christ? What are we to make of his enthronement, especially in the book of Revelation? ~ Richard Oster, "Why the Cross Is Not Enough," *7 Subversive Letters* (blog), July 17, 2013 (www.richardoster.com)

Richard Oster went on to note that "cross" never appears in Revelation and "crucifixion" appears just once (Rev. 11:8). "Blood" (19 times) occasionally referred to Jesus' blood (Rev. 1:5; 5:9; 7:14; 12:11; 19:3), but more often was used as an image of judgment (6:12; 8:7-8; 11:6, 14:20; 16:3-4) or a reference to martyrs who sacrificed everything for Jesus (6:10; 16:6; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2).

Even when calling Jesus "the Lamb" (cf. 22:1, 3), John emphasized Christ's *enthronement*. Like Jesus' birth (Luke 2:10), his cross is a vital component in the story of the good news (1 Cor. 1:17). But it is not that story's last word.

The cross was the worst thing the devil could do to Jesus. It was also part of God's plan (Acts 2:23; 1 Cor. 1:18). But Jesus' resurrection and enthronement validate his Lordship and show that, in his case, the cross was powerless. (see Acts 7:55-56; Rom. 4:25; 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:14-17; Eph. 1:20). Jesus lives! He reigns! And we who follow him are "more than conquerors" (Rom. 8:37)!

As we face the evil of a fallen world, we cannot hear that too often.

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