The Cross

1Co 15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

1Co 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Two aspects of Salvation are presented through the Cross.Ro.1-8

1. Justification by the blood.1:1-5:20

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. 5:9 Much more then, being now **justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. 18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

1. Deliverance through the cross.

Ro 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: Ro 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Ro 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now **justified by his blood**, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were **reconciled to God by the death** of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be **saved by his life**.

11 And not only so, but we also **joy in God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now **received the atonement**.

8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

1. This truth bearing the image of the heavenly must grip us.

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1Co 15:22

* For as in Adam all die,
* even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Paul is about to unfold the Christian view of the body, in stark contrast to the prevailing views held by the pagan society of that day. No other religion holds such a high view of the body as does Christianity. God's commitment to and estimation of the body is shown both by his creation of the body and his incarnation.

And keep in mind that Paul is talking here about our physical bodies. Our physical bodies will be changed on the last day, but they will not be replaced. We will be raised as was Christ, and Christ's resurrection was a bodily resurrection.

It is our bodies that we must present to God as living sacrifices. Our obedience to God is expressed in our bodies or it is expressed nowhere.

THE GREEKS LOOKED DOWN ON THE BODY.

To the Greeks, the important thing was the soul, the spirit of a man. The body did not matter at all. In Corinth, this view was taken to its logical conclusion -- if the body does not matter at all, then you can do with it whatever you want, and you can sate all of its appetites.

This Greek view of the body met Paul's message about our freedom in Christ -- and, perhaps not surprisingly, some of the Greek's seemed to have latched onto Paul's preaching as proof of their false view of the body. Paul clears up their confusion in this section of his letter.

As we will see, freedom in Christ does not make us free to sin; it makes us free not to sin. Further, Paul will tell us that we cannot do whatever we want with our body for the simple reason that our body does not belong to us.

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?