

**A New Passover - Paul's Understanding of the Cross**  
**Romans 8**                      **Tim Dickau**                      **March 19th, 2017**

Tom Wright. "Jesus died not in order to make us disembodied beings in heaven but restored human beings with a vocation to play a vital part in God's purpose for the world."

**The Background Story: A New Passover**

	<b>Antagonist</b>	<b>Problem</b>	<b>Protagonist</b>	<b>Resolution</b>
<i>OT story</i>	Egyptians	Slavery to Empire	Israel/Yahweh	Deliverance from slavery / promised land
<i>Romans 7-8</i>	Sin	Slavery to Sin	Jesus /Israel's King	Liberation from Sin's power/ recovery of vocation / inheriting the earth

**No Condemnation - Why?**

Verse 3. "For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

**How does Jesus' death work to liberate us?**

1. Jesus is Israel's representative king.
2. In Jesus' death, Sin is condemned (not Jesus).
3. In Jesus, God was acting to reconcile the world.
4. Jesus' death overcomes the power of Sin.

**More on the Exodus in the Rest of chapter 8**

1. We are liberated / empowered by the Spirit who brings Life
2. We must choose not to go back to slavery / Egypt
3. We don't live in fear as God's beloved children but live in freedom
4. We are to inherit the whole world
5. The Spirit shares our suffering as we share the suffering of the world on the way to the promised inheritance.

**The New Exodus and the gospels**

**The New Exodus Today**

Two categories in which Jesus' death impacts the world. .

- 1. This meaning of the cross reframes how the cross impacts our lives.*

**A. It means that becoming a follower of Christ is only a beginning.** The liberation won at the cross renews our job description in the world.

**B. Sin and brokenness are not the end of the story: the cross opens up the door to personal healing and wholeness.**

The contrast between flesh and spirit is not between our physical desires and some other worldly desires but between desires directed towards God's restored world and desires towards more greed, lustful exploitation, rage, etc. -- desires that ultimately lead to ruin.

**c. The cross invites us on the path of confession and repentance as the path towards becoming whole.**

"I think the whole matter of confession and repentance has been flipped upside down or inside out. Whereas before it meant exposing or becoming vulnerable, with the chance of being hurt, repentance has changed to becoming a tool of faith which enables me to live here in this place and in this time and with this people. So confession has become a tool I can use in order to receive the love of God and the fellowship of God's Spirit with me in ways that I haven't been able to experience before. It has become the way to being strengthened."

**d. Christian discipleship becomes much more relevant to our hopes for a transformed society.**

Vancouver Sun and Province article about Justwork and Todd Kenneth.  
"But employment is the big one, it brings your self-worth back, it makes you feel like you are contributing to society. I used to sleep here in the church hall and now I'm working here." He described how he gets excited when his alarm goes off as he thinks about his work in the pottery studio. "When I get out of bed in the morning, I think, 'I have a purpose today.'"

That's a picture of what God intends for all of us.

**e. The Cross calls us to a way of life, not just a job.**

***2. Jesus' death reframes our image and experience of God.***

The cross reveals who God is NOT  
The cross reveals who God is

"If (this) God is for us...."

**Conclusion:** Knowing Faithful Love