slain from the foundation of the world” (Rev. 13:8). In preparation for His sacrifice, Jesus came to bear witness of the Father (Jn. 14:9). With His death on the cross, Christ provided the means for universal salvation: “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” (Jn. 12:32). The cross is evidence of God’s love: “God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). God’s love and Christ’s sacrifice inspire believers to come to Christ and God.

**The cross made sinners aware of sin and its consequences.**

It was sin that nailed Christ to the cross. For every sinner the message of the cross is, “You have sinned” (Acts 2:37). Therefore, the natural response of every penitent sinner ought to be, “I have sinned” (Luke 15:21).

**The cross causes penitent sinners to seek salvation**

Awareness of sin is the first step to salvation. The response to the first gospel sermon was, “What must we do?” (Acts 2:37).The crucified and resurrected Jesus says: “Come unto me…” (Matt. 11:28).

**The preaching of the cross makes truth available to sinners**

Christ reconciled the world to God through the cross (Col. 1:20-23).The Old Law was nailed to the Cross (Col. 2:14). Through the Gospel, God has provided reconciling truth (John 8:32). God’s providence brings the Gospel to sinners through preaching. (Eph. 3:8).

**The preaching of the cross saves from sin**

Those who obey the Gospel are free from the condemnation of sin (Rom. 8:1). The redeemed remain saved as long as they walk in the light (1 John 1:7).

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they failed their created purpose of worshiping and serving God. The Bible reports that Satan was cast from heaven to earth (Luke 10:18). Speaking of Lucifer (Satan), the Bible says, “All your pomp has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you. How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain’” (Isaiah 14:11-13). The history of Satan and the fallen angels is described in Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:12-19. These two biblical passages also mention the king of Babylon, the King of Tyre, and the spiritual power behind the kings. Lust for power had infested their soul, strangling faith in God’s wisdom which says love and service for one another is greater than the power of rank, status, or authority.

God’s standard for power and servitude is the opposite of the human standard. Among God’s people, those first in power will eventually be last because God humbles the proud and lifts up the humble (Mark 10:31; Matt. 20:26). The rebellious angels became their Creator’s adversary. What began as a selfish lust for power in heaven brought sin to paradise and death to the human race. God, however, had a plan to defeat Satan, sin, and death. His Son, Christ Jesus completed the plan when He took our punishment on the cross (Colossians 2:15; Hebrew 2:14). Satan’s greatest triumph was the introduction of death to the human family. When Jesus rose from the grave, He destroyed the power of death and Satan over the lives of God’s people (1 Cor. 15:55-57).

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