

## The Power of God unto Salvation

In the third place, the Cross of Christ is an offense because *it claims to be the power of God unto salvation*. It makes this claim without an alternative. It throws up our sinful state in clear relief, and demands from every man, as his first duty, to get right with God.

From its sacrifice there comes the stern word that nothing else in life is to be put before this getting right with God, and that this reconciliation is to be attained only through the Cross.

To men who love this present world, who are eager in pursuit of what a merely earthly life can give, this claim is an impertinence.

Even by men who feel the condemnation of the Cross, and are moved by its ideal both to the high and serious purpose and to patient sacrifice, the claim that the Cross makes to be the power of God to salvation is keenly resented.

There are men and women outside the Christian Church whose lives have a certain pure, and yet always shadowed, beauty. They also stumble at this claim of the Cross.

Let me then enforce this claim of the Cross to be the only atonement, the solitary means of renewing the soul to perfect peace with God by the remission of sins...

(The Cross in the Christian Experience by W. M. Clow, Cincinnati: Jennings and Graham, 1908, 121-122, Paragraph Structure Modified)