

# The Cross Takes Away All Self Merit (Clip)

by Gary Wilkerson

---

*This sermon emphasizes the transformative power of the cross in extinguishing self-merit, glory aspirations, and reliance on self-effort. It highlights how the cross exposes the futility of seeking righteousness through human strength, wisdom, or positive thinking, redirecting us to the desperate need for Jesus' sacrifice. Through the cross, our self-achieved righteousness is consumed, leading us to recognize our helplessness and dependence on Christ for true restoration of righteousness.*

**Duration:** 0:53

**Scripture:** Galatians 2:20, Philippians 3:8, 1 Corinthians 1:18, Romans 5:8

**Topics:** "Transformative Power of the Cross", "Dependence on Christ"

---

## Description

This sermon emphasizes the transformative power of the cross in extinguishing self-merit, glory aspirations, and reliance on self-effort. It highlights how the cross exposes the futility of seeking righteousness through human strength, wisdom, or positive thinking, redirecting us to the desperate need for Jesus' sacrifice. Through the cross, our self-achieved righteousness is consumed, leading us to recognize our helplessness and dependence on Christ for true restoration of righteousness.

---

## Transcript

Every form of self-merit or of glory aspiration or ever being thinking that it's possible to obtain it by self-effort, the cross puts those things to an end. Theologians of the cross know that they can't be helped by mere optimism, by appeals to seek glory or strength or wisdom or positive thinking, because these things in themselves are the problem. And the cross is striking at the root.

The cross extinguishes the flame of self-achieved righteousness. It burns the flesh out, the confidence in the flesh, leaving us helpless and hopeless and desperate for the alternative, which is the cross of Jesus Christ. The cross is the only true right means to restoring what is missing.

Righteousness is found not in self-worth but through Christ's work in us. The cross of Jesus Christ.

---

Video: [https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/yn\\_lf8xAw\\_U.mp4](https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/yn_lf8xAw_U.mp4)

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/gary-wilkerson/the-cross-takes-away-all-self-merit/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**