

Christus Victor – a work of the cross

“Like other aspects of this ancient faith, the **Celtic Cross** calls us to broaden our spiritual sight so that we can receive a deeper level of Divine illumination”

Kenneth R McIntosh. *Water from an Ancient Well – Celtic Spirituality for Modern Life*

The ‘**Christus Victor**’ theology was not that the work of the cross was God settling a legal requirement - that Jesus was punished to pay the price of sin - but that it was **a victory over the forces of darkness and evil.**

*Listen! I will describe the best of dreams which I dreamed in the middle of the night when, far and wide, all men slept. It seemed to me I saw a wondrous tree soaring into the air, surrounded by light, the brightest of crosses... I saw that sign often change its clothing and hue, at times dewy with moisture, stained by flowing blood, at times adorned with treasure...[Then] I heard it utter words...I saw the Lord of Mankind hasten with such courage to climb upon me... **the young warrior, God Almighty, stripped himself, firm and unflinching. He climbed upon the cross, brave before many...** I bore aloft the mighty King, the Lord of Heaven... They drove dark nails into me... I was drenched in the blood that streamed from the Man’s side after He set His spirit free...They took Almighty God away. **The warrior left me standing there, stained with blood...** They laid Him down, limb-weary; they stood at the [warrior’s] head, they beheld there the Lord of Heaven; **and there He rested for a while, worn-out after battle.** Taken from ‘The Dream of the Rood’*

Having stripped the principalities and the powers, [Christ] made a show of them openly, triumphing over them [on the cross].
Colossians 2:15

To this end the Son of God was revealed: that he might destroy the works of the devil.
1 John 3:8

How do you view the work of the cross of Christ?

How might your understanding of both the Cross of Christ, and the whole of the Christian faith be broadened and deepened by the Celtic Christian perspective?