

## A SOUL AT THE CROSS

**Text: Galatians 6:14**

**Key Word:** Cross

**Key Thought:** The Significance of the Cross

The cross of Christ becomes more significant as we get closer to it. From a distant we can tell that it has a certain design. But the closer we get to it, the more detailed its features stand out. It doesn't take long before we notice that it is quite rugged. Another striking feature is the deep red stains that permeated the wood and highlighted its deep groves.

Our society has, for the most part, lost the significance of its meaning. Its value is basically neglected. To most people it is just another cross. Yet there is one cross which stands out above the others. It was placed on a lonely hill at Golgotha. The hill had a resemblance to a human skull. Many others had been crucified there. But this time it was different. This time the victim had committed no crime. He was being crucified for simply being who He said He was - the Son of God.

Today I want us to take a journey back to the cross to reconsider its significance towards our life. I want to stop at three places as we approach the cross of Calvary.

### **I. AT THE CROSS - SALVATION**

### **II. ON THE CROSS - SANCTIFICATION**

### **III. UNDER THE CROSS - SUBMISSION/SERVICE**

#### **I. AT THE CROSS - SALVATION**

*"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

*Galatians 6:14a*

The cross becomes a meaningless configuration of wood, rope and spikes without the Person of Jesus Christ. It was the worst way to be punished for a crime. It offered an agonizing death. There was always a great deal of mocking and ridicule toward its victims.

If we were part of that crowd almost 2,000 years ago ascending that ugly hill, we would immediately sense the taste of death in the area. Our blessed Lord hung weakened from His previous scourging. He was writhing in pain. The anguish caused by His torturing death could be clearly witnessed. Who could NOT respond to the Messiah with a grateful heart for His willingness to die in such a humiliating manner in our place? Only those who were blinded to its significance!

## I. AT THE CROSS - SALVATION (Contd.)

We often forget that sin demands a tremendous price to cancel its debt. It requires the shedding of blood and subsequent death. It is the offering of one life for another. The cross confronts us with the great truth of our Salvation.

At the cross, at the cross  
Where I first saw the light  
And the burden of my heart rolled away  
It was there by faith  
I received my sight  
And now I am happy all the day

Ralph E. Hudson

\*\*\* When telling his young daughter the story of Abraham and Isaac, a father related how God had finally told Abraham not to kill Isaac because he had provided a sacrificial lamb instead.

The little girl looked up with a sad expression and said, "*I don't like killing lambs.*"

The father was speechless for a moment and then realized the traumatic and memorable events that such sacrifices were. He recognized anew the seriousness of killing a lamb and how destructive sin was.

If killing an innocent white lamb seemed horrendous, how immeasurably more was the crucifixion of the Lamb of God? \*\*\*

At the base of the cross we find the ground reddened by the blood of our Saviour. As you look up you clearly see the cost of salvation.

Was it for crimes that I have done  
He died upon the tree  
Amazing pity, grace unknown  
And love beyond degree!  
But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe  
Here, Lord I give myself away  
T'is all that I can do.

Our only proper response to the cross of Calvary is to accept the salvation that it purchased. It would be totally out of place for us to boast of what we've done to gain salvation. The only praise is to be directed to our redeeming Saviour. Life begins at the foot of the cross through Salvation.

## II. ON THE CROSS - SANCTIFICATION

*"through which the world has been crucified to me."*

*Galatians 6:14b*

Early in John Wesley's college life he formed a college group and called it "The Holy Club." The members of the group were nicknamed Methodists by their fellow students because of their methodical Bible study and prayer habits as well as their outreach into the jails and ministry to the poor.

John Wesley restored the truth of Christian perfection (sanctification - holiness living) to the church. He felt that there was possibility of sinlessness through the perfecting process that began through justification by faith. Wesley insisted that the Gospel should have an impact upon society. He had an influence upon Robert Rakes (The founder of Sunday School) and John Howard (the leader of prison reform).

Once we are at the cross and respond to its message of salvation, we must then take another step for further maturity. We must place ourselves and our desires upon the cross. This begins the process of sanctification or holy living. Here is where our **WALK** begins to line up with our **TALK**. If we are a Christian, we need to conform to the image of Christ. We need to look like our Father.

\*\*\* The great missionary David Brainerd, spent his brief life (he died before the age of thirty) ministering to the American Indians. He wrote in his journal these words: *"I never got away from Jesus and Him crucified. When my people were gripped by this great evangelical doctrine of Christ and Him crucified, I had no need to give them instructions about morality. I found that one followed the other as the sure and inevitable fruit of the other."*

He also said this in another place: *"I find my Indians begin to put on the garments of holiness and their common life begins to be sanctified even in small matters when they are possessed by the doctrine of Christ and Him crucified."* \*\*\*

This holy living needs to spread out over our nation.

## II. ON THE CROSS - SANCTIFICATION (Contd.)

### 5271 Red, White and Blue

\*\*\* The USA has a unique flag that portrays some very important truth. Some call it the stars and stripes, with 50 stars representing their 50 states.

The flag is also called **the red, white and blue**. You never hear them call it the blue, white and red; or red, blue and white. **It is because the order is of utmost importance.** The colours represent God's method of Salvation.

**First**, there is the colour **red** which represents salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

**Secondly**, there is the colour **white** which represents sanctification or holy living.

**Thirdly**, the colour **blue** represents heaven as our final destination. There can be no change in the order. **Through the blood of the Lamb comes purity, then paradise.** \*\*\*

God desires our nation to also enter into this pattern of living. Our Churches must set the example for the world to see. Paul lived as an example for the world to see.

*"Therefore I urge you to imitate me."*

*I Corinthians 4:16*

*"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."*

*I Corinthians 11:1*

Peter also exhorted us,

*"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

*22. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."*

*I Peter 2:21,22*

### III. UNDER THE CROSS - SUBMISSION/SERVICE

*"and I to the world."*

*Galatians 6:14c*

#### 5646 Shackleton's Advertisement

\*\*\* The following occurred in a London newspaper: *"Men wanted for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success."*

The ad was signed Sir Ernest Shackleton, Antarctic explorer. Thousands responded instantly to the call. They were ready to sacrifice all for the elation of adventure and uncertain honour. Should God's children do less?

Our world's population has recently exceeded 7.4 billion. This number becomes staggering when you think of the few workers that promote the Gospel. I understand that there are approximately 25,000 missionaries that spread the Gospel worldwide. That makes one Christian worker for approximately every 300,000 persons. There is no doubt that we must all work together to get the job done.

The number of workers is NOT as important as the quality of their lives. They must be assured of their **Salvation** and must be walking a life of **Sanctification** before becoming useful for **Service**.

A person must place himself/herself under the cross to be effective in serving others. We need to be continually challenged by the unending opportunities before us. God has provided us with a great privilege to be used in His service.

#### Sacrifice and Service

\*\*\* People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of a great debt owing to our God, which we can never pay?

Is that a sacrifice which brings its own best reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? Away with the word in such a view, and with such a thought. It is emphatically no sacrifice. **Say rather it is a privilege.** \*\*\*

David Livingstone

### **III. UNDER THE CROSS - SUBMISSION/SERVICE (Contd.)**

Many of us may never go to a distant land or cross a culture to bring the good news. But we can still be involved. We can pray for and support these willing workers. We can write words of encouragement to them. We can help in supplying to the needs of orphans. There are so many opportunities before us.

#### **Are you willing to place yourself under the cross in submission and service to God?**

It will require a sacrifice. Many people in this congregation have found the joy that comes in this place of total submission to God. I've watched people come alive in the Spirit when they have allowed the Lord to have His will in their lives. Could there be another one whom God is speaking to today requesting you to surrender to His will?

**The communion which we are about to take is an expression of the life of Jesus as He totally submitted to the will of His Father.** During this time of Communion we need to ask ourselves "where are we when it comes to the cross?"

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#### **II. ON THE CROSS - SANCTIFICATION**

#### **III. UNDER THE CROSS - SUBMISSION/SERVICE**

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Date: Mar 6/16

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: At the Foot of the Cross - D

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**II. ON THE CROSS - SANCTIFICATION** - *Galatians 6:14b; I Corinthians 4:16; I Corinthians 11:1; I Peter 2:21,22*

**III. UNDER THE CROSS - SUBMISSION/SERVICE** - *Galatians 6:14c*