

of a man who was drowning and another man leaped into the water to save him. A crowd gathered around after the man had been rescued and they looked for the rescuer, but he was gone, he had disappeared. Now that's not the way with Christ, he saves you through the cross, but he never leaves you. He walks beside you, day after day. Salvation is complete in the cross.

I read an article about the great day in history when the first transcontinental railway was completed. It was a memorable occasion. It was planned for the laying of the last rail and the last tie, the driving of the last spike across the border between Colorado and New Mexico. A laurel-wood tie had been provided and two silver spikes which represented the two adjoining states. At the appointed time, the two governors stepped forward and each in turn drove one of the silver spikes into the laurelwood tie. When the last spike had been driven, the assembled crowd broke into applause, while reporters who had tapped the telegraph wires, flashed the good news to the world. This was a great accomplishment. They had spanned the continent from coast to coast. It was indeed a great day. We could contrast this with that great day if we could but see in the cross the day when Christ Jesus with the spikes driven through his hands and feet, cried out on the cross, "It is finished." We see in the

Intro:

"On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame;  
But I love that old cross, where the dearest and best,  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

We have not really seen Christ until we have seen him on the cross. We look and see above the cross, the heavenly Father who seems to look down from his throne, as he extends a hand to mankind.

Beneath His cross, there's a great crowd of people, sinning humanity, alienated from God.

But upon that cross, there's a form, the son of God, dying for the sins of the world, that he might reconcile sinners unto himself. We have never really seen Christ until we see him on the cross. It is in the cross primarily that Christ himself desires to be remembered.

As we think about that last evening with his disciples just before his death, how did he spend that evening. One of the darkest days ever to dawn in the life of our Lord, he dined with his friends and he knew what was coming the next day. He told them about it. He did not review his life, he did not preach to them some of the sermons that he had given before, but he gave them a preview of his



death, his sacrifice on the cross at Calvary. When he said, "This is my body which is given for you, this do in remembrance of me. This cup is the New Testament in my blood which is shed for you." Luke 22:19-20. Thus (Christ wants) to be remembered by the cross till he shall come. He knew and he told them about the one who would betray him, and he gave them a glimpse of how he would be suspended between heaven and earth, outstretched on a cross.

We know that there was one who betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver...he was arrested...brought him to the court, beaten, humiliated, and that those wicked hands were laid upon him, and there was no sleep for him that night. For early at the dawn they took him out to Calvary, and they nailed him to a Roman cross, and lifted him up to die. There he hangs, nailed there by our sins, loving us in spite of our sins, dying that we might live forever. Truly this was the (darkest) day in all of history, and yet it was a bright day for us.

I. We see (God's love) in the cross.

We who have sinned against him, we do not deserve this love. He shows his love to us in a (million ways.) When we think about the health he gives us, the strength he provides for us, the daily bread, his blessings that come to us every

minute of our lives, the clothes we have to wear, the meals we have to eat, the fellowship we have in our church, and among our friends...we see in the cross, God's love. And we see it best as we see his son hanging on the cross for our redemption. There was no hesitation on the part of God. He looked at us as sinners...he knew that there was nothing good in us, and that we were hopeless, but we see his love in that he sends his son who was spotless, without blemish, to die on that cross, in our behalf.

II. We see that (salvation is complete) in the cross

This is another revelation to our hearts, that we see that anybody can be saved now because Christ was there upon that cross.

"I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore;  
 Very deeply, stained within, sinking to rise no more;  
 But the master of the sea, heard my despairing cry,  
 From the waters lifted me, now safe am I."

But that isn't all that Jesus does as we look at the cross, he not only saves us, but he (continues with us). Salvation is a complete thing, and he remains with us. There is a story



IV. We see the (sinful nature of man)

As we look upon the cross we feel and know that it was man who erected the cross and nailed the son of God to it. It was permitted by God to give vent to the feelings of his heart. And we see that this was certainly the revelation of the enmity of the natural heart which speaks out against Christ, that he hated God. He takes pains to show the intensity of this hatred. Now he glories in the shame as man cries aloud, "Crucify him, crucify him." This is their "Come let us kill him, -- not this man but Barabus". Thus the cross interprets a man's heart, it takes the mask off of pretended religion and exhibits the soul that is full of the sin of hell.

You may say, I don't hate God, I may be indifferent to him, he may not be in all my thoughts, but I don't hate him. And then what does the cross mean? Love? hatred? indifference? (Does love demand death?) What does the cross mean? Does indifference crucify it's objects. Look at your hands, are they not red with blood? Whose blood is that? The blood of God's son, it was hatred, it was enmity.

I am not judging you, it was the cross that stands before us that judges you, and I'm asking you to judge yourselves by it. It is the cross that interprets your purpose and

cross salvation complete.

I read the story of Billy Graves and his wife who went as missionaries from the El Paso church to Argentina. But he was called back home later, his wife became ill, and he went to Dallas, and she spent some time in the hospital. She was improved but later, however, she had to return to the hospital, and she passed away. So they brought her body to El Paso for the funeral in the chapel there. And during the service, they had the congregation to sing "Blessed Assurance", and as they sang that song, the story is told, that it seemed the light of heaven was upon their faces. "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine, oh what a fore-taste of glory divine." Friends, that's what we see in the cross, and that's what Christ can mean to the Christian. Because of the Cross, we have a Saviour who saved us completely from sin, and he stays with us.

III. We see in the cross (good news for everyone)

It continues to add souls to the household of God. It makes men brothers wherever they are if they will accept Jesus Christ. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." John 1:12. We know that



in the cross we see the gospel for everyone, and the gospel means good news, its the news of salvation and hope for a lost world. If the doctor comes and says to you, you can go home from the hospital tomorrow, and in a few days you'll be well, it's good news, isn't it?

If someone should come and say you will be heir of a million dollars, you'll be able to take care of all your needs for the rest of your life, that would be good news.

When Billy Graham was preaching in Africa, he preached to people who had never heard of Christ before, he made this statement, he said that their black faces lighted up, as they came to know that God had given his son to save them from their sin. We see in the cross good news for everyone today.

This is a message that people around the world need, as we hear about the tragedies, crime, we need to hear about Christ. When Dr. Ramsey Pollard preached in Japan, the report was, they said this about him, "All that he talks about is Jesus," and that's what the preacher ought to talk about.

We can get everything else from the newspapers and the magazines and the daily reports on the radio, but when people come to church, they ought to hear about Jesus.

And we preachers are not only to carry this message, but laymen as well, should speak a good word for Jesus among

their friends. You know someone you can help, and you can tell them about Jesus.

Yes, I see in the cross help for everyone around this world. After World War I, the Arabs in Palostine and the British soldiers of the army of occupation generally regarded one another as mortal enemies. One of the British soldiers, a devout Christian, visited the tomb of Jesus. As he approached the tomb he was startled to note, just inside of the opening, a tall Arab warrior, with hands folded in deep meditation. The British soldier waited, not wishing to intrude, and not knowing what might happen next. When finally the Arab warrior turned to leave the tomb, their eyes met. The Englishman extended his hand, and uttered one word, "Jesus". The Arab took his hand and responded with the Arabic equivalent of Jesus. It was a warm lingering handshake. Not one further word was spoken, but both men realized that they were brothers in Christ, and that they served the same master. We see in the cross that this Christ is for everyone around the world.



all to him I owe, sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow. So as we look at the cross today, we see that it still has power to redeem and cleanse, it has power to pay the debt of your sin, and to write in red, in the blood of Jesus Christ, the word, "Paid".

VI. We see in the cross a home provided

As we glance again towards the cross, we see that through the cross, God has provided a home in the land beyond. We know there is life after death in a land where men can live forever, and everybody wants to go to that land. We may have different ideas about it. Now a lot of people have different ideas about how to get there. But as this point there are some who believe that the gates will be open to them because of their good works. Others think that the gates of heaven will open to them because of certain forms, others because of baptism, or because they have suffered much in the body. But the Bible tells us that Jesus said "I am the way, no man cometh unto the father but by me". Acts 4:12 says "neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name given unto heaven/whereby we must be saved." John 1:12 says, "But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God."

reveals your thoughts and the intent of your heart. What a revelation. Man hating God, hating most when God is loving most. Man is acting as a devil. What have I to do with that cross, and what right have you to identify me with the crucifiers, you said.

We could say, "Thou art the man." We must not say "Pilate did it," we must not say that the Jews did it, the Romans did it, but I did it. You did it, you and your representatives, and until we come out of that crucifying crowd, and disown the representatives, and protest against that guilty deed, the cross will ever reveal unto us, the truth that we're guilty. Faith is man's protest against the deed, and the identification of himself, not only with Christ and the crucified one, but with Jesus.

This is a public declaration of man's hatred of God and his rejection of his son. As we think of the hatred and as we think of the rejection of Jesus Christ then we get an estimate of man's heart. For 30 years he was despised and rejected, for 30 pieces of silver he was sold, but as we look at the cross, we can see that man certainly is in an awful condition. What do you see in that cross, do you not see your lost condition?



We see that the cross (still has power)

Again as we look at the cross, we must open our hearts and minds to see that the cross still has power, that it still works when men will accept its power. The sinner could never get rid of his sin, and his awful condition, except in the cross of Jesus Christ. We lift up Jesus and say to you today that he still works. Dr. Samuel Chadwick of Leeds, England, once announced a making of infidels. Dr. Chadwick says that this large crowd came in. They would not sing, they would not join in prayer, and during the preaching there was the constant hecklin. After the service, Dr. Chadwick invited any who were interested in further discussion to meet him in the vestry. 19 men followed him. After a long and apparently fruitless discussion, Dr. Chadwick said, "Suppose you grant your philosophy to be sufficient. For the man who has moral character, social position, economic sufficiency and domestic happiness. What will you do for the man who has none of these, whose life has been wrecked by the ravages of wrong-doing and wrong living, and from whom all help has departed." The lawyer who had become the spokesman for this group of infidels, arose, offered his hand to the minister and said, "I would bring him to you Dr. Chadwick, for you have his only hope." What a tribute to the redeeming,

reconciling, Christ. What a tribute to know that in the cross it still has power, and that even those who despise the cross know something of its power.

It reconciles sinners. It takes those who are in a bankrupt state, and Christ gave himself a ransom for many. The pastor came to a new realization of this fact, through an almost fatal illness. When he had recovered to the point where he could walk again, he became concerned about the staggering bills that had accumulated. There had been 2 nurses and 3 doctors, costly prescriptions and extraordinary expenses. But in all these weeks of illness, he had of course paid nothing. He walked to the nearby business of the little town and stopped first at the druggist. When he asked about his account, the druggist opened the old fashioned ledger and showed him the long list of items. "You see, it's a big bill" said, the druggist. "Yes", said the preacher, weakly, "I was afraid of that, I can't pay now, but I will pay just as soon as I can." Then the druggist removed his hand from the bottom of the page, and the preacher saw in big red letters, the word, "Paid". His deacons had paid the bill. He went to two other places where huge bills had been accumulated, every debt had been paid. As he walked home, overwhelmed with gratitude, he began to sing in his heart, "Jesus paid it all,"



walk in light in the heavens beyond.

We will never have to suffer that loneliness that Jesus suffered as we look at the cross. We see that he was alone and he was comfortless, and that'll be the way that people are in hell, they will be without comfort, and no one to offer them comfort, but Jesus was lonely, in order that we might never be lonely.

We will never have to suffer the pain of sin, and it's wages for we see that Jesus suffered it upon the cross. He endured the cross, that we might never have to suffer such pain. If we should put out faith in him, then we'll never have to suffer that, and as we see the cross, we see that we have a home in heaven. It makes you want to just give your whole heart to him, it makes you want to whole life to him, as you think about what he has done for you.

Mrs. Killman at the Woman's missionary meeting on Thursday, said that she and her husband were visiting in Jerusalem, and one day she met a 10 yr. old boy, who had big brown eyes and curly black hair, and said he was a fine looking child, and she put her arm around his shoulder and he looked up to her and said, "You're an American." And she told him, "Yes". And she asked him the question, "Would you like to go to

There are many good things that we can do for the world, but all these things fall short of an entrance to heaven. We may try to build a ladder to the moon, but a man could never climb a ladder and get to heaven, or to the moon.

But as we look at the cross, we see that here is a way, that we shall be moved on to God's glory beyond. "We are redeemed, not with corruptible as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." I Peter 1:18-19.

Paul borrows the word, the slave market of his day, to describe a situation. Some of us, some people perhaps, have vivid memories of the old market place of horse and buggy day, where on a certain day of the week and the month, there was a traditional trade day, where every farmer with livestock to sell or trade would bring it to the public square in the county seat. Here a mule offered for sale would be tied to the hitching post or rail. He might stand there for hours in the broiling sun. Prospective purchasers might open his mouth to determine his age, prode him in the flanks, drive him around in a gallop to make sure he was sound of wind, and then perhaps decide that he would not do. This might be done repeatedly before a purchaser was found, and next year the mule might be returned to the same place, subject to the same experience. In the slave traffic of Paul's day,



we see that this was something that was familiar in the market place...that one might and sold. Now when Paul talks about redemption through the cross, he uses the term which suggests the finality of our redemption. Our permanent removal out of the market place. Gal. 3:13.

When we think of this wonderful home which we have been provided through the cross, I wonder if there isn't sometimes an embarrassment in our hearts when we think about the shortage of dedicated men and women, boys and girls to bear witness to Jesus Christ. How sinful and how casual we are. People say today when there is some Christian work to do, "I don't want to be tied down." How familiar that sounds. Our Lord Jesus was willing not only to be tied down, but to be nailed to a cross for our redemption. "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." Without a doubt, this is one of the sweetest things...as we look upon the cross, it becomes personal. It's for each of us...we're to go and tell others about it.

But in the cross, we see that we shall never suffer separation. After all the ages of sweet fellowship with God, we see that Jesus was separated to come and die on a cross, and to say, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me."

The sinner will suffer separation from God, according to Luke 16, for he tells us

We know that he will separate those that are sinful, from God because of the cross, forever.

We know also that as we look at the cross, we shall never come into shame, because Jesus took our place. He was altogether holy, and with his stripes we are healed, and we shall never suffer the shame that he had to suffer as we look at that cross.

We will never suffer the thirst that he had to suffer, as those who were crucified, and hung in that broiling, eastern sun, and he cried out, "I thirst". The sinner will thirst and suffer throughout eternity, and we're told,--Jesus tells us about a man in the Bible who went to hell, and he cried out for Lazarus to come and just touch the tip of his finger in water, that his tongue might be cooled.

We will never have to suffer darkness for we see in the cross that Jesus, there, for 3 hours, upon the cross was in darkness, symbolic of the darkness of hell, and Jesus suffered all of hell as he hung on the cross. He suffered darkness that we might never have to walk in darkness, but only to



America?" and his reply was, "With all my heart". She said that she wished she could have just picked him up and made room in her home and her heart for that boy, but because of restrictions, she could not. But think of what he said, "With all my heart", and this morning as you look at the cross of Jesus Christ with me, I wonder if there isn't something, "With all my heart, I love him," who gave himself for me there."

During World War II there is the story of a woman who received a telegram telling her that her son had been killed, she drew herself up into a shell, she quit going to church, she almost ceased to exist.

Some weeks later a woman across the street received a telegram saying that her son had been killed. Her pastor asked her to sing a solo in church the next Sunday. She felt that God would give her the strength to do it. When she rose to sing, every eye was upon her. She lifted her face toward heaven, in a silent prayer, and then she began to sing:

"When I was crushed with sorrow, and bowed in deep despair,  
My load of grief and heartaches seemed more than I could

bear;

3. N. - July 15, 84 P.M. -  
 2. N. Nov. 2, 1975 ✓  
 So. May - March 12, 67 WXRI ✓  
 So. May - April 17, 66 A.M. - ✓  
 So. May. Feb. 12, 61 A.M.

B-✓



Twas then I heard a whisper, you to the Lord belong.

Then Jesus took my burden and left me with a song."

As we look at the cross we see that it means everything to a Christian, and we should thank God for Jesus who died there for us. I wonder if we wouldn't say in our hearts, and within our souls and our minds today, that we truly recognize that here is one who revealed God's love to us. Here is one who brought salvation complete. Here is one who reveals to us our sinful nature, and who provided for us our heavenly home, and I know that as I look at the cross, it still works. Won't you say, "with all my heart I will believe in it, and accept it."

I accept that cross of X as my cross - I accept his death - I take my place with him - I love him who died to put sin away -

~~Christian~~ have you taken that stand? Do you realize that Christ's cross means absolute separation from the world that rejected Him?

How I died with Him - Buried with Him - Raised with Him to walk in newness of life!

✓ - MA 11/17/71 light perf