

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Lift High The Standard!

Today's world is all about "me and my" group. A Christian martyr in the 1970's understood well what the life of a born again Believer in Christ Jesus is (Jn 3). His life teaches us how to live and die for the Lord Jesus Christ. He understood well how sinful man sees all of life as being focused on oneself and those around him.

This Christian martyr was Watchman Nee whose life was focused on Jesus Christ. He understood and wrote about the "standard" for the Christian. He wrote that our life is not about "righteousness" by the world's standards. It is not about justice and injustice – as the world teaches and is heard from those hiding behind the pulpits while standing on a pulpitum (stage) today in "churches" given over to the worldly thinking and ways – and clichés.

We are to lift high the "standard," **Lift high the Cross**.

The children of Israel spoke against the Lord God and were fearful – but God in Christ Jesus provided a way of salvation that called for repentance and obedience to Him. Note that the serpent on the pole in Numbers 21 was a shadow of Christ dying upon the Cross for our sins and, as we look to Him and His shed Blood, we have our sins forgiven (Jn 3.16).

Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live (Num 21.7, 8).

When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Holy Spirit will lift up a standard against him. The standard is the Cross. As the Holy Spirit lifts the standard, the enemy sees the Cross lifted high. Satan knows that Jesus died on the Cross and shed His Blood, and that He rose victoriously from the dead. Satan knows that Jesus is the Redeemer and he knows he must flee, that he has no right in the lives of the Lord's people.

So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him (Isa 59.19).

the body of Christ with each of us walking with Him in obedience to Him and His Holy Word?

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *[is]* the first commandment. And the second *[is]* like, *[namely]* this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

There is none other commandment greater than these (Mk 12.30, 31).

People of God in Christ Jesus, **what** will it take for us to come together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ? **What** will it take that we might be a witness for Him, give Him glory and praise due His Holy Name – and, as the body of Christ, love one another?

How long before we "Lift high the Standard," **The Cross of Christ, in our daily lives and as the body of Christ?** How long?

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Jesus makes it clear in the New Testament that when He is lifted up from the earth, He will draw all unto Himself.

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *[men]* unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die (Jn 12.32, 33).

I recall walking through a “Lock-up” unit in a prison and hearing some men “holler” at me, “Hey, Chaplain, this ain’t fair how ‘they’ treat me . . .” On one occasion, knowing something about a specific person and why he was in “Lock-up” and knowing he had nothing good to say to a Christian Chaplain, I turned to him and asked if I could tell him about a Friend I have. He replied, “Yeah, go ahead.”

I have a Friend Who loves people. He wants the best for them, and He spent His life on this earth helping people – all because He has so much love for everyone. He went about healing people, feeding people . . . He never hurt people but loved them. He spoke forth the Truth. He did not try to make them *feel* good. I cannot begin to think in terms of His vast love for even those who hated Him. People hated Him because – all because He loved everyone. They hated Him because people sought Him – because it was in knowing Him, experiencing His great love that healing came in their lives.

The religious leaders met together and decided to “set Him up” and get people to falsely accuse Him and have Him killed. They succeeded! They killed Him – all – because – He – loved with His life.

I ask you, “Was that fair?” Think about it. This Friend of mine still teaches to love your enemies. “Blessed are ye, when *[men]* shall revile you, and persecute *[you]*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake” (Mt 5.11).

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you (Mt 5.44).

What love! Yes, He was crucified for you and me and shed His Blood for you and me on the Cross of Calvary – all because He loves you and me. He shed His Blood on Calvary that our sins might be forgiven, and He rose from the dead – victorious over sin, hell, and the grave; and He lives forevermore in Heaven that we might live with Him forevermore IF we repent of our sins and give our hearts and lives to Him, live for Him.

You want to talk about fairness, injustice? I can write only of the standard that we need to lift high: **The Cross of Calvary**. The standard is the Cross which unites all born again Believers with Jesus Christ that we might each one, as the body of Christ, know His love in our lives, His love flowing in us and through us for even the enemies, Satan’s ministers and apostles (II Cor 11.13-15).

No – not walk with them, but pray for them to turn from the hate-ridden life and the deceitfulness and lies perpetrated in this old sinful world and in the “churches” today.

Hear what Watchman Nee wrote years ago in his book, *Sit, Walk, Stand*:

Nothing has done greater damage to our Christian testimony than our trying to be right and demanding right of others. We become preoccupied with what is and what is not right. We ask ourselves, Have we been justly or unjustly treated? and we think thus to vindicate our actions. But that is not our standard. The whole question for us is one of cross-bearing. You ask me, “Is it right for someone to strike my cheek?” I reply, “Of course not! But the question is, do you only want to be right?” As Christians our standard of living can never be “right or wrong,” but the Cross. The principle of the Cross is our principle of conduct. Praise God that he makes his sun to shine on the evil and the good. With him it is a question of his grace and not of right or wrong. But that is to be our standard also: “Forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you” [Eph 4.32]. “Right or wrong” is the principle of the Gentiles and tax gatherers. My life is to be governed by the principle of the Cross and of the perfection of the Father: “Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Nee, Watchman, *Sit, Walk, Stand* (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1977), 31-32. First published in 1957 by Gospel Literature Service, Bombay, India.

We must lift high the standard with our lives, a life lived for the Lord Jesus Christ; we are to live a holy life, to live in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, in His holiness.

There is but one way, and it is the *Via Dolorosa*, *The Way* of the Cross in Jesus Christ: His way or no way.

Many love darkness rather than light, the Light of Jesus Christ, and therefore teach justice in the world’s view and the “churches” view which opposes the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil (Jn 3.19).

Satan is trying hard to divide the true body of Christ with hatred, and the body of Christ are taking their eyes off the Lord Jesus Christ and are looking at each other with defective lenses! Satan is trying to divide the body of Christ by different titles/different “groupings,” for he comes to steal, kill, and destroy, to take away our joy and cause us to see each other through defective lenses.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *[it]* more abundantly (Jn 10.10).

Let me say now that born again Believers are **Blood** related – more closely related than your natural bloodline because the **Bloodline** of Jesus Christ is stronger and greater than any other bloodline! It will never end.

We need to begin seeing our true brothers and sisters through the heart of Christ and come together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our personal lives and as members of the body of Jesus Christ.

Read Revelation 7.9-17 – and rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ. Read this passage aloud! Read it and receive it!

So, how much do we love this Friend? Those of us who are born again Believers and are members of the body of Christ, how much do we personally, and as the body of Christ, love Him? Are we willing to stand together under His Lordship of