



Mighty in the Word

*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)

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. X.06

walk in obedience to the Lord God Almighty, to walk the straight and narrow way – come what may.

When we look at the Cross of Calvary upon which Jesus was crucified by a world filled with hate, we cannot but see "The Love of God" in Christ Jesus as He shed His blood for a lost and dying world. Why are we so lacking in our love for the Lord Jesus Christ that we fail to sing the songs of Zion? Why are we singing the music of the world and calling it "church" music? It may be "church" music, but it is not the music of the Lord Jesus Christ. Begin singing with your life, your daily walk, "Hallelujah for the Cross."

Beloved, let us sing boldly and with great exaltation – come what may:

Hallelujah for the Cross

Endnotes:

¹ Remember that the New Testament was originally written in the Greek language.

² It is correctly fruit. Newer translations and "experts" continue insisting that the KJV is incorrect, and that the word is fruits. People of God, an apple is not a fruits because it has different parts to it of which the whole is comprised (seed, stem, meat, peel, and core). The Bible makes clear to break one of the commandments is to break all. You cannot pick and choose which "fruit" you want. Not to have one part of the fruit of the Spirit is not to have the fruit of the Spirit.

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Hallelujah for the Cross!

The cross, it standeth fast—
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Defying every blast—
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
The winds of hell have blown,
The world its hate hath shown,
Yet it is not overthrown—
Hallelujah for the cross!

'Twas here the debt was paid—
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Our sins on Jesus laid—
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
So round the cross we sing
Of Christ, our offering,
Of Christ, our living King—
Hallelujah for the cross!

It is the old cross still—
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Its triumph let us tell—
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
The grace of God here shone
Thru Christ, the blessed Son,
Who did for sin atone—
Hallelujah for the cross!

Refrain

Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Hallelujah for the cross;
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
It shall never suffer loss!

Horatius Bonar

How long since you sang, "Hallelujah for the Cross"? How long since you rejoiced for the Cross? How long since you wept at the foot of the Cross? How long since you looked into the heart of God in Jesus Christ on the Cross and knew His love for you? His love that flows from Calvary?

It is at the Cross of Calvary that we come to know, to experience "The Love of God" in Christ Jesus. Jesus said the greatest commandment is, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Mt 22.37). The second is like unto it: "...Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Mt 22.39).

Neighbor is explained in the Good Samaritan passage (Lk 10.29-36). It is not who is your neighbor according to your decision, to your liking, but rather to whom are you a neighbor – according to the Lord's calling upon your life. This is not about

others reaching out to you to help you, but rather you reaching out to help others (Eph 4.28).

The sad part is that people are disobeying this command today by loving others as they love themselves. You say that is what the Bible says, “love thy neighbor as thyself.” No, that is what many read it to say. People today love themselves with selfishness and ego-centricity. They do not love themselves with the love of God; therefore, they do not love others.

Let's take a few steps backward, or rather let us begin again.

The first commandment is to love God “with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” We can only love Him because He first loved us (I Jn 4.19). We cannot know love outside of Jesus Christ and the Cross of Calvary. The second commandment cannot be obeyed until the first commandment is.

We must go to the Cross of Calvary and there experience “The Love of God” in Christ Jesus in our lives. We must stand at the Mercy seat with Isaiah and there behold the Lamb of God, His love for us as He shed His blood on Calvary.

When we experience His love for us at the Cross of Calvary, we will see Who He is and who we are **NOT**, but whose we are when we repent of our sins and ask Jesus Christ to be or **LORD and SAVIOR** in our lives daily (Dt 6.4-9).

It is as we stand with Isaiah in the experience that we will be overwhelmed with the love of God in Christ Jesus, that His love will flow in us and out of us like an artesian well that cannot be stopped. We will love all whom the Lord puts in our path – no matter what they do to us or say against us.

When we go to the reverse side of the Cross, we will begin seeing with the heart of Jesus those that hurt us and realize they hurt people out of their own hurt and neediness. We then begin to understand the sadness of others who stand in need of God's healing grace in their lives.

How long since you stood “At The Cross” and experienced “There's Power in the Blood”? Power that changes you, that changes your heart to be what the Lord wants? How long since you walked with Him “In The Garden” and heard Him say, You are mine. “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *[that]* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.” (Jn 15.16).

It is at the Cross of Calvary we experience forgiveness for our sins. As we grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and realize we are forgiven that “As far as the east is from the west, *[so]* far hath he removed our transgressions from us” (Psa 103.12), that we begin knowing His great love for us.

When we experience His grace and mercy “At The Cross” and we are humbled by such love in the realization that we stand condemned BUT for His righteousness (Rom 3.23), we will forgive others who have hurt us and continue hurting us, we

will sing Hallelujah for the Cross. Our lives will be changed, and we will pray with St. Stephen. Let's read Acts 7.59-60.

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *[God]*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

As the religious ones stoned Stephen to death, he prayed for them.

There are those who say, “I forgive, but I don't forget....” Beloved you want your sins forgiven **and** forgotten? But do you forget what others have done to you? (*Thayer's Greek Definitions*: gives as one of the understandings of **forgive** in the Greek¹ is to “give up, keep no longer”)

A class on meditation in which I was enrolled for one of my degrees many years ago involved a journey to a store, any store we wanted in which we were to select something we wanted. It was to be a value – not a “thing.” The Lord seems not to let me go where others trod. Most went to Wal-Mart. Not me. I saw myself at a Cokesbury Bookstore where there were nothing but red leather Bibles with golden edges, row after row. I saw an altar with the cross on the altar at one side of the store, where one of the Bibles was opened to Galatians 5.23-24. I stood in front of the altar knowing that I wanted the fruit² of the Spirit flowing in my life. I cupped my hands as if to lift out that scripture to take to a cashier. However, when I got to the front of the store, there stood someone – but no cash register. I wept as I knew the cost. The Lord said, if I were to have the fruit of the Spirit, I would love everyone who has hurt me in the past, those who are presently hurting me, and those that will hurt me. I have to tell you that I remained there weeping as my heart was broken knowing that I did not have the power to do that.

How long since you sang “Hallelujah for the Cross” and knew the great love Jesus has for you? He calls us to a hard place, but He gave His life for us that we might live for Him who died for us – and rose victoriously over sin, hell, and the grave.

When we go to the Cross of Calvary, we will begin singing, “**Hallelujah for the Cross.**” We will, as did Peter, and the other apostles with him, after being beaten for the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, go “... rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name” (Acts 5.41).

It seems today that we have long forgotten the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that we walk in our own willful way believing that we are owed something, that we are the center of the universe, that life is all about me. Oh, how many believe that Jesus Christ is their buddy, and He is at their *beck and call* to do as they want when they want. Life is not about you and me. There is more to life than the world knows, and it is the calling upon the lives of us who know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to go forth in His Name proclaiming the Gospel to a lost and dying world. Our lives are not about falling down before others to do their bidding that we might be accepted into their *little* groups and walk with them. Oh, No! We are called to