



Women Building Godly Lives

*The wisest of women builds her own house,
but folly with her own hands tears it down. Prov. 14:1*

Website: www.womenbuildinggodlylives.com

Contact: editors@womenbuildinggodlylives.com

January 2022

The Cross and The Crucifixion

Vol.6 No.1

The Crucifixion

By Wilburta Arrowood

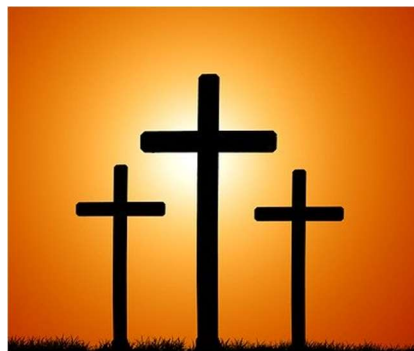
I have a confession to make. Every time I hear a sermon that outlines in detail what is involved with a crucifixion, any crucifixion, I cry. Every time I read the last few chapters of Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John I cry. More often than not, when one of the men in the congregation officiates at the communion table and reminds me of what it represents, my chest tightens, my nose runs, and I shed tears. I have been a Christian for over fifty years, but I absolutely hate to read or hear about the crucifixion of Christ. Let me tell you why.

When I read or hear about the crucifixion of Jesus, my Lord, it reminds me of how sinful I truly am. As I live my life day by day I try to tell myself I am a good person. I am like the rich young ruler in Matthew 19. Inwardly, I like to recite all the good things I have done, even though I know good works can never save anyone. I also know that I cannot be saved without those good works, as James explains in James 2:18. "But someone may well say, 'You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.'"

Sermons or reading about Jesus' death are a strong dose of reality. Romans 3:23 tells us, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." The realization that it is my sins that made it necessary for Jesus to submit himself to that cruel death always overwhelms me. Crucifixion was not about

killing someone. It was all about inflicting the most pain possible while a person died. It was for ME, not everyone else in the world, although it was for them, too. He would have done it if I happened to be the only person on earth who sinned. That is humbling beyond belief, and yet, it is true. Jesus not only died for me, He did it willingly. I cannot imagine that depth of love. On the cross, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” At that point he was totally separated from God, because of me. He knew from the beginning of time this was coming, He knew what it meant, and He still did that for me. My heart aches from shame for me and from pride for Him. Both emotions make me cry.

It is worse than uncomfortable. It is excruciating. Sometimes I am able to smother it down a bit, but I can never completely become indifferent, or at ease. Only when I remember the aftermath of this horrible scene am I able to compose myself. Jesus rose! There is triumph and reason for rejoicing after the sorrow. He not only rose, He was reunited with the Father. Beyond that, He made it possible for me and for you to be reunited with God as well. We can spend eternity with our heavenly Father because of what Jesus endured on the horrible day over 2000 years ago. May we never forget what the crucifixion means for each of us. And it is okay to cry.



The Meaning of the Cross
by Amanda Stephanus

When seeing a cross or hearing someone mention a cross, a person's thoughts can go in one of two directions. To the unbeliever, the preaching of the cross is foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:18). To the believer, it is the power and wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:23-24). When digging deeper into this subject, we learn more about what the cross means. By way of an acrostic, consider what the cross epitomizes to the Christian.

First, it represents its intended purpose: **crucifixion**. A cross was not something the Jews used to decorate with, it was not something that had a positive meaning. When the cross was seen or mentioned it was done so with one thing in mind, death. The gospel accounts record the crucifixion of Jesus, the suffering, pain, and agony that He endured upon that cross for us (Matthew 27:32-50). Just as the physical cross represented physical death, it also represents the figurative death of Christians. Jesus told his disciples that to be a follower of Him, we must take up our cross and die to self (Matthew 16:24). This is not a mere one-time action, but a continuous dedication to self sacrifice (1 Corinthians 15:31).

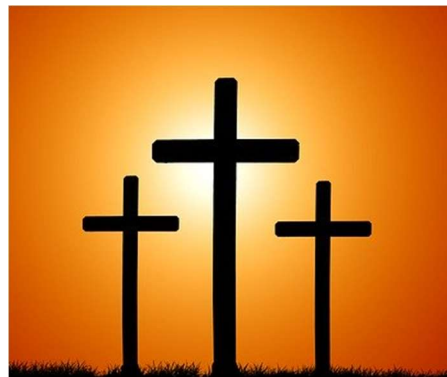
The cross also epitomizes **reconciliation**. Ephesians 2:11-22 beautifully describes our hope, our access to God, and our citizenship in the kingdom which were all made possible by reconciliation that took place at Calvary. In the words of Paul, without the cross and subsequent resurrection, we of all people would be most miserable (1 Corinthians 15:19).

When thinking about the cross, it also brings to mind **obedience**. It was not easy for Jesus to endure those things which He did. His obedience was not miraculous or supernatural. Jesus was flesh and blood just as we are (John 1:14), He was tempted the same way we are (Hebrews 4:15), and yet he learned obedience and was obedient even unto the death of the cross (Hebrews 5:8, Philippians 2:8). Christ's example of obedience is one that we must imitate and strive for every day.

To the Christian, the cross represents **sacrifice**. There exists no greater example of someone giving up everything they have for others than Christ. Paul

reminded the brethren in Corinth of this: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9). One cannot become a Christian without sacrifice (Luke 14:25-33) and one cannot remain a Christian without sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2).

Last, the cross is the epitome of **salvation**. Without the death of Christ upon the cross, there would be nothing saving us from our sins (Titus 2:14). Without the cross, we would have nothing to preach to a wicked and sinful world. Even before the world was created, it was in God’s plan for Christ to come to this earth, live a perfect life, and die a cruel death on the cross for us to be saved (1 Peter 1:20-21).



Poems on the Cross and the Crucifixion

Do I Truly Understand the price that Jesus paid?

Why He suffered? Why He died? And in a tomb was laid?

Do I Truly Understand the pain...the agony...

He suffered as He hung there? (I know it was for me.)

Do I Truly Understand why to Calvary he did go?

Was willing there to suffer? ('cause He loved me so?)

Do I Truly Understand that walk on Calvary’s road?

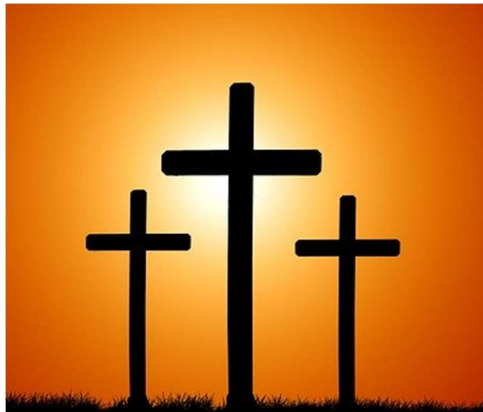
The weight of sin upon Him? How heavy was His load?

“I understand!” I cry. (At least I think I do.)
Then I stop and bow my head, for I know it isn’t true.
There’s no way to understand His willingness to die...
Why He’d become a man and leave His home on high.
It’s so hard to understand for mere mortal man...
But it’s from God, our Creator, and He has made the Plan.
There’s no way to understand, however hard I try.
It is so unfathomable...I hang my head and cry,
“I don’t understand, Lord, why You suffered so for me.
I’m not worth it, Lord, and never shall I be.
I am only human, Lord, a small part of mankind...
And love like Yours doesn’t fit in my mind.”
But when I am still, Lord, deep in thought and quiet...
I can hear so clear those voices near riot
As they cried, “Crucify Him! This Man of Galilee.”
And I know in my heart, Lord, it should have been me!
Yes! It should have been me, Lord, hanging in Your place!
And there I would be, but for Your Mercy and Your Grace!
For You took upon Yourself for me my load of guilt...
Your pierced flesh, Lord, it should have been mine!
(Then why do I murmur, complain, and whine?)
It should have been me, Lord, all bruised and skin broken.
But You willingly stood there with few words spoken.
Yes, I was the one, Lord, who should have been taunted.
But for me, Lord, You hung there (and by this I’m haunted!)
For me...for me, my Lord, You became a man.
For me You were willing to carry out this Plan.
A Lamb so pure and perfect with not a stain to see;
And only one so spotless could the sacrifice be!
Though I cannot comprehend the kind of love You give.

Knowing you gave Your life makes me want to rightly live.
Though I live a thousand years; a thousand and a day...
There's not enough that I could do that would this debt repay!
So when I ask, "Do I Understand?" and the price paid clearly see?
I bow my head and whisper low..."He loves me so and I only know...
He did it just for me!"

Sweat drops as though they were drops of blood
Fell from my Savior's head.
Pain through His body surely flowed,
As to Calvary He was led.
Pain from the scourging as His flesh was torn.
Pain in His heart as the world gave Him scorn.
Pain in His heart at what Peter did say.
Pain in His heart as His foll'wers ran away.
Pain and suff'ring on that long dusty road.
The weight of my sins was a heavy, heavy load.
Pain of the nails as they tore through His skin...
Pain through His body as the cross was raised...and then,
Pain in His heart as God turned away His face,
That I might know His wond'rous saving Grace.
All the **Pain** He suffered there was just for lowly me,
That I, in my imperfection,
Might be from sin set free.
In awe I bow as I think about
God and His great love,
And know down deep within my heart
Such Love is from above.

May it always ever be (as I try my crown to gain)
That I strive with all my heart and soul
To never cause Him **Pain!**
Guard my lips, heart, soul, and mind
That His Word I not disdain.
Help me never be the one...
That would ever cause Him **Pain!**



Questions for meditation and discussion:

1. What is something else the cross represents to you, other than what is mentioned in the articles here?
2. Considering what Jesus did on the cross for you, study on what the crucifixion really means. How does that make you feel, knowing it was for you, even if you were the only sinner in the whole world?

Ideas for application:

1. Find ways to take what you have learned about the cross and use the knowledge to help focus your mind during the Lord's Memorial this coming Sunday.
2. How have you been showing yourself to be a living sacrifice?

Prayer suggestions:

Pray that the cross and the crucifixion will NEVER become old, trite, or ho-hum but will always be fresh and new.



Using the word "CROSS" below, make your own acrostic. Use the articles from this publication, other notes you have, and other scriptures as you find them. Then put this where you can see it and add to it from time-to-time, and even read it during Communion.

C

R

O

S

S

Please share this with your friends. Encourage them to subscribe [at this link](#). Use it as your private study or a group study. Pass it along to others who might be encouraged by it. Thanks.

*Copyright © *2019* *WomenBuildingGodlyLives.com/newsletters-english/*, All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

P O Box 403,
Kosciusko, MS 39090

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to << Test Email Address >>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Women Building Godly Lives · P O Box 403 · Kosciusko, MS 39090 · USA

