

THE CROSS AND THE CHRISTIAN

By Keith Greer

The subject of Christ's death upon the cross is the most important event revealed in God's word. According to John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. " His death has meaning to the whole world, but especially to a child of God! Why? What does Christ's death mean to you? What relationship do you sustain with Him because of that death? What role does it play for us after all this time? Let us try to answer some of these questions.

HIS DEATH IS MY IDENTITY: (Who Am I). "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" {1 Corinthians 1:18} The world cannot understand the message of the cross. Yet, the power of that one sacrifice is the difference between life and death!

Christ's blood purchased His bride, the church. "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood." {Acts 20:28} The price was high, and did not come cheaply.

Who do I belong to? Whose name do I wear? "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." {1 Corinthians 6:20} Do you wear His name with honor, giving Him all the glory?

Do you understand what His death brought you out of? "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love," {Colossians 1:13} Yes, I am a Christian, thanks to that cross. What a wonderful blessing!

HIS CALVARY IS MY DESTINY: (What am I doing here?) Why did God put us on this earth? "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. "{Ephesians 2:10} We are here to do "good works", His work!

One aspect of that work is sharing the message of the cross with the world! "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself. This He said, signifying by what death He would die." (John 12:32,33)

Hear the words of Solomon. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all "{Ecclesiastes 12:13}

HIS CALVARY IS MY ETERNITY: (Where am I going?) What one does with that message will have a great determination where they will spend eternity. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. "{2Corinthians 4: 17,18}

Many people live a life with no direction whatsoever. Yet, as children of God we have a goal. Listen to Paul. "Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." {2 Timothy 4:8} Living the life of a Christian we seek to follow the path He has set before us in order to finish His work and secure our home with Him in heaven someday.

The Lord's cross and the Christian share a very special relationship. God's scheme of redemption and the cross of Christ – the centerpiece of God's plan to save sinful men. The blood shed on Calvary made this relationship possible. Yes, the message of the cross is powerful! Do you have the proper relationship with that cross in your life today? ***