

Christ is Victor

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“Do you understand the Cross?”

As we read through the account of the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus, I cannot help but ask the question, “What would it take for Christians today to become real in their practical, everyday Christian life, instead of being so unreal?”

Jesus suffered so much wrong on our behalf, and yet it seems that we just get caught up in the trivialities of this world—what kind of chairs we have to sit on, what sort of carpeting we have under us—and we lose sight of the greater issues of the Christian life. Our external comfort is not really going to affect our eternity. We do not seem to understand the word “eternity”. Nor do we understand the Cross.

God changed my life forever by giving me a glimpse of the Cross. When I saw the Cross, I saw that the sinless Saviour had to die for my sin. That one glimpse of the Cross broke my hard heart.

Friends, if we understand the price that was paid for our salvation, we would not be so off-hand and casual toward Jesus, as though Jesus is someone we need to feel ashamed of. Christians today get excited and red in the face about little things. But what about eternity? What about lost souls?

God wants communion with you!

Do you not see how God has reached down from Heaven to reach you, to change you, to bless you? When Jesus died, the veil of the temple was rent. The veil of the temple separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Tabernacle. Only once in the year, the high priest was allowed to bring an offering for his sins and the sins of the people inside that veil. That veil represented the separation between people and the holy God. This veil was torn when Christ died!

When you tear something, how do you tear it? You get scissors and start from the bottom. But the veil of the Holy of Holies was torn from the top to the bottom—God did it from above! In doing so, He removed the barrier that separates you and I from Himself. You do not need an archbishop or priest to stand between you and God. We can each have access to God through Christ. Friends, do you enjoy this communion with God which has thus been opened for you?

I personally feel very sad that I have not made better use of the opportunities that God has given me. I feel, “All these years I have walked with God. I have followed the Lord Jesus Christ. But why didn’t I come to the level of St. Francis of Assisi, or John of the Bible, or Paul of the Bible? Why, when I am in prayer, have I not been able to just walk into the very presence of God in Heaven and talk with Him?” Friends, we have a great God, a living God, and sometimes we just treat Him so casually. We “honour” Him with a little song or a little religious meeting, but we lack the heart that says, “I am going to be like Jesus. I am going to walk with Jesus. I am going to make a difference in the world around me!”

Wasted years

One question crossed my mind recently: I wasted some years. I put off obeying the Lord for some precious teenage years. The years when I was 13, 14, and 15 were very bad years for me, full of lust, evil thoughts, and pornography. I said to myself: “How much earlier should I have begun to be able to do more for God.” I tell you, my friends, lost time and wasted years are terrible when you look back at them. You know that song:

Oh the years of sinning wasted,

“The Cross of Christ”

“He shall see of the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities” (Isaiah 53:11).

The Cross of Jesus is a high mystery. In the world, there is the law of vicarious suffering. When a child suffers, the

**Could I but recall them now
I would give them to my Saviour
To His will I’ll gladly bow.**

What are we going to place at His feet when we meet Him? Wasted years? Or well-used years, full of love?

True Christianity

So the curtain was rent from top to bottom that you and I can have communion with God. That is the difference between religion and Christianity. It is not you and I sitting down and saying: “Who is this God? Where is this God? Is this God ever going to forgive me? Is this God ever going to speak to me?” No, that is not Christianity. It is God reaching out to you, it is God speaking to you, it is God welcoming you, it is God rending the veil so you have free access to Him, and you can pray and God can answer your prayers.

Friends, this is marvelous. We ought to be enjoying every hour of our Christian walk! Jesus’ death on the Cross is not just a historic scene which happened far away and years ago with no relevance today. Not at all. I’ve known many people who have said: “I saw the Cross! I saw the love of the Cross!” This does not mean they had a vision and saw the Cross with their eyes, but they comprehended the glory of the love of the Cross. When I was converted, this understanding burst upon my soul, breaking my proud heart.

When we understand the Cross, how can we be so indifferent and so casual and nonchalant and go running after garbage? Be sure you follow the Lord now while you have the opportunity. Otherwise you may wake up one day and realize what a mistake you have made with your life.

—Joshua Daniel

parents suffer more. They would be glad to take on those sufferings themselves and relieve the child. Even God the Father took the consequences of the sin of man in the body of His Son Jesus. Jesus did not sin even in His thoughts. His blood was absolutely pure.

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Christ is Victor
ONLINE

Free E-mail Subscription
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“The Cross of Christ”

When you are converted and grow spiritually you will come to a stage when you will resist every evil thought and not entertain a single evil thought. In the name of Jesus you will overcome. Jesus was very holy, far beyond our imagination. Nowhere in the history of the world will you find a man like Jesus. Jesus willingly took our sin upon Himself. It pleased God to put on Him the punishment of our iniquities. There is an exchange. His righteousness is put upon us and our iniquities are put on Him. When we confess our sins truly with our heart, they are immediately forgiven.

The whole universe came into being

by His word. But now Jesus was limited in the human form. But He exhibited the infinite power of God. Jesus was accused of being a liar, a thief, and a murderer. He willingly suffered as a sinner. The righteousness that you can receive by faith in the Cross has no limit. There was no violence in Jesus' mouth. He practised what He preached. He never returned evil for evil. Matthew 5:44: “Love your enemies; bless them that curse you ... and persecute you.”

No one can practise this but by the Cross of Jesus. As long as your sins are in you, you can never live the 12th chapter of Romans or the Sermon on the Mount. The

Sermon on the Mount is the normal life of a man who believes in the Cross of Christ. When this life is not seen in you, you should feel sad. When you don't believe in the Cross, even your nervous reactions are under the power of the evil spirit. But when you believe on the Cross, you are released. When we remember the death of Jesus, it gives us an impetus towards perfection. By allowing our thoughts to rest on the cause of His death we are freed from the bondage of sin—freed to grow as saints and perfect beings. The evil spirit has no power over us.

—N. Daniel

“Torn in Half”

Some years ago a colporteur arrived at the door of a country cottage in France, greeted the woman within and offered a New Testament for sale.

Jeanne hesitated. Would the priest approve? ...

Do not be troubled, Madame,” urged the colporteur. “The priest would sin against God if he prevented you reading of the love of the good Christ.”

At last she produced 50 centimes, and, taking the book, said, “I cannot refuse, Monsieur, but may I be pardoned if I sin.”

Presently in came Jacques the charcoal burner, her husband. After his tea Jeanne rather timidly produced her book for his inspection. As she rather feared, he was tired and cross, and upbraided her for spending his money in this fashion.

“But,” said she, “the money is not all yours, Jacques. I brought money from my home when we married. The half franc was as much mine as yours.”

“Give me the book,” shouted Jacques in a temper. He snatched it from her hands. “The money was half yours and half mine, you say. Very well, the book is the same...!” He opened the book roughly, tore it in two pieces, dropping one into his blouse and throwing the other to Jeanne.

Several days later, Jacques sat in the forest by his charcoal fires. He felt lonely. Suddenly he remembered the torn book. He would investigate it. His rough fingers had divided it in Luke's Gospel. He began at the very beginning: “And will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy

to be called thy son.”

Spellbound he read to the end of the story, and then a dozen questions presented themselves. What had he done—the poor lost son? Why was he exiled? Where had he been? What induced him to return? The questions haunted him. “I wish I had the beginning of the story,” he sighed. At first, pride prevented him asking Jeanne for her part of the book.

Meanwhile Jeanne lived her monotonous days and used her leisure moments poring over her part and spelling out its contents. She began to delight in it, but when she reached the end, her interest was doubly quickened. That younger son, his waywardness, his journey, his sin, his misery, and the wonderful change in his thoughts: “I perish with hunger. I will arise and go to my father.” There the story stopped.

But what happened? Did the father welcome him? Her tender heart longed for a satisfactory answer. She even cried over the story, but she could not pick up her courage to consult Jacques.

The days passed. On one, however, the rain poured down with extra vigour, and Jacques came home feeling specially weary. He ate his soup and bread for supper as usual, and at last he blurted out, “Jeanne, you remember the book I tore in two?”

“Oh, yes,” said she, half-fearing.

“My part had in it a wonderful story, but only the end of it. I cannot rest until I know the beginning of it. Bring me your piece.”

“Oh, Jacques! How wonderful!”

“Why?”

“The same story is ever in my mind, only I lack the ending. Did the father receive the wilful son?”

“He did. But what was it that separated them?”

She brought her piece and knelt by his chair. Together they read the whole of the beautiful parable, and the Spirit of God, who had been working in both their hearts, caused its hidden meaning to dawn on them. That was the first of many Bible readings by the firelight after the soup and bread were eaten, and both have yielded their hearts and lives to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Has the parable of the prodigal son ever raised in your mind the questions that it did in theirs?

—Selected

“God will make a way”

There is a touching story behind Don Moen's song, “God will make a way”, which has brought great comfort and peace to many hearts.

Late one evening, Don Moen received a phone call with the devastating news that his wife's sister had lost her oldest son in an automobile accident. The van in which Craig and Susan Phelps and their four sons were travelling had been struck broadside by an eighteen-wheeler truck. All four boys were thrown from the van.

While three of the sons were located by their cries, Jeremy was found lying by a fence post with his neck broken. Craig, who was a medical doctor, could do nothing to revive him. They sat out in the wilderness and waited for an ambulance.

When Don received the news of this tragedy a few hours later, his whole world came to a standstill, but on the following

“God Will...” Continued on page 3

REALITY CHECK!

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the LORD”

(Acts 3:19)

“God will make a way”

morning he had to fly off for a recording session which had been scheduled for several weeks. ...

During the flight the morning after the accident, God gave Don a song for them: “God will make a way where there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see, He will make a way for me.” The song was based upon Isaiah 43:19: “Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.”

This song would bring comfort to Craig and Susan when all hope seemed lost. ... Don received a letter from Susan in which she quoted Isaiah 43:4: “Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee:

therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.” Susan wrote, “We’ve seen the truth of the Scripture.”

When Jeremy’s friends learned that he had accepted Jesus into his life before he died, many of them began to ask their own parents how they could be assured of going to heaven when they died. The accident also prompted Craig and Susan into a deeper walk with the Lord as well as into new avenues of ministry. Craig began teaching Sunday School at their church and Susan became active in Women’s Aglow, sharing with various groups her story and the Lord’s provision in her time of sorrow.

She has since said, “The day of the accident, when I got out of the van, even before I knew our son was dead, I knew I

had a choice. I could be bitter and angry or I could totally accept God and whatever He had for us. I had to make the decision fast. I’ve seen fruit come as a result of that choice. If I had to, I’d do it again. It’s worth knowing others will go to heaven because of what happened to Jeremy. God really did make a way for us!”

*God will make a way,
Where there seems to be no way.
He works in ways we cannot see,
He will make a way for me.
He will be my guide,
Hold me closely to His side.
With love and strength
For each new day,
He will make a way,
He will make a way.*

“Seeking God first”

In these days of pressure we need to take frequent inventory and find out where we stand before the Lord. Are we making Him first in our life? Are we acknowledging Him in all our ways, so that He can direct our paths? Are we faithful to Him in that which is least, as well as in that which is much? (Matthew 6:33; Proverbs 3:5-6).

In this connection, Mr. R. G. Le Tourneau told a story of his early years in the manufacturing business.

In those early days, the company, which bears his name, was just beginning. Business was small, but the competition was keen. ...

Late one day it was drawn to the attention of Mr. Le Tourneau by his employees that it would be necessary for him to draw up immediately a plan for a certain vital part of a large unit of machinery which the company was building. The part was needed the next

morning. If not forthcoming, then work in the plant would have to be stopped.

The time was short. It was essential that the workmen have the blueprint by early morning. Could it be completed by then? How was the gadget to be made? The calculations and blueprinting alone would take the entire evening. For him, it meant spending the whole night over the drafting board. ...

As these questions flooded his mind, he suddenly remembered that he had previously arranged for another engagement for the evening. He had given consent to help a group of young people from the church who were going to take charge of a service in a certain gospel mission. ... He had promised to help them with the singing and testimony.

He said (within himself): “Lord, I cannot go to the mission tonight. It is essential that I plan this vital part for the machine. The men are waiting to start on

the first unit tomorrow morning. It will take all night, perhaps longer, to invent it and draw up the blueprint. Furthermore ... the young people can get along without me.”

The struggle continued for some minutes. But God reminded him that he had promised the young people to give help with the service at the mission.

At last he said, “Lord, I will go. I do not know what I shall do tomorrow about the vital part for the machine, but I will go.”

That evening, in obedience to the Lord’s voice to his heart, he went to the mission and took his place in the service.

At ten o’clock he returned to his home. He was tired. He seemed half-awake. What about that part? Was it too late to start on the blueprint? How could he concentrate on the plan in such a weary, worn-out state?

Putting on his coat again, he walked to

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This Fellowship is an inter-denominational missionary and prayer group working for revival in churches and amongst students in several countries. We invite every layperson to become God’s ally in changing his or her corner of the world. We train people in evangelistic work and to be self-supporting missionaries

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“Christ saves”

How often people become discouraged, and say they do not know whether or not God does answer prayer! In the parable of the importunate widow, Christ teaches us how we are not only to pray and seek, but also to find. If the unjust judge heard the petition of the poor woman who pushed her claims, how much more will our Heavenly Father hear our cry!

Prayer is hardly ever mentioned in the Bible alone; it is prayer and earnestness; prayer and watchfulness; prayer and thanksgiving. It is an instructive fact that throughout Scripture prayer is always linked with something else. ...

Then the highest type of Christian is the one who has got clear beyond asking and seeking, and keeps knocking till the answer comes. If we knock, God has promised to open the door and grant our request. It may be years before the answer comes; He may keep us knocking; but He has promised that the answer will come.

I will tell you what I think it means to knock. A number of years ago, when we were having meetings in a certain city, it came to a point where there seemed to be very little power. We called together all the mothers, and asked them to meet and pray for their children. About fifteen hundred mothers came together, and poured out their hearts to God in prayer. One mother said: “I wish you would pray for my two boys. They have gone off on a drunken spree; and it seems as if my heart would break.” She was a widowed mother. A few mothers gathered together and said: “Let us have a prayer-meeting for these boys.” They cried to God for these two wandering boys; and now see how God answered their prayer.

That day these two brothers had planned to meet at the corner of the street where our meetings were being held.

“Seeking God first”

the office of the plant, and sat down at the drafting board. He sat there for a few minutes. He seemed unable to think or plan. Then, suddenly, the entire design of the needed part flashed into his mind. He quickly made his calculations and put them on paper.

Leaving instructions for the men to begin on the unit the next morning he returned to his home and bed.

What great things God had done for

They were going to spend the night in debauchery and sin. About seven o'clock the first one came to the appointed place; he saw the people going into the meeting. As it was a stormy night, he thought he would go in for a little while. The Word of God reached him, and he went into the inquiry room, where he gave his heart to the Saviour.

The other brother waited at the corner until the meeting broke up, expecting him to come; he did not know that he had been in the meeting. There was a young men's meeting in the church nearby, and this brother thought he would like to see what was going on; so he followed the crowd into the meeting. He also was impressed with what he heard, and was the first one to go into the inquiry-room, where he found peace. While this was happening, the first one had gone home to cheer his mother's heart with the good news. He found her on her knees. She had been knocking at the mercy-seat. While she was doing so, her boy came in and told her that her prayers had been answered; his soul was saved. It was not long before the other brother came in and told his story—how he, too, had been blessed. ...

I heard of a wife in England who had an unconverted husband. She resolved that she would pray every day for twelve months for his conversion. Every day at twelve o'clock she went to her room alone and cried to God. Her husband would not allow her to speak to him on the subject; but she could speak to God on his behalf.

It may be that you have a friend who does not wish to be spoken with about his salvation ... and pray to God about it. The twelve months passed away, and there was no sign of his yielding. She resolved to pray for six months longer. ... The six months passed, and still there

him that night! The Lord honoured His faithful, obedient servant. That gadget—worked out in those few minutes after returning from the mission meeting—worked perfectly. In fact... the units of machinery produced in the plant soon outstripped in popularity and acceptability the units produced by competing companies.

—Selected

was no sign, no answer.

The question arose in her mind, could she give him up? “No,” she said, “I will pray for him as long as God gives me breath.” That very day, when he came home to dinner, instead of going into the dining-room he went upstairs. ...

Finally she went to his room, and found him on his knees crying to God to have mercy upon him. God convicted him of sin; he not only became a Christian, but the Word of God had free course, and was glorified in him. God used him mightily. That was God answering the prayers of this Christian wife; she knocked and knocked till the answer came.

— D. L. Moody

Weekly Meetings —Welcome to All—

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 am at:

Community Christ Church in Novi, MI
46200 West Ten Mile Rd.

Call (248) 486-6326 or (248) 380-8633

University of Michigan Mondays 7:00pm

Angell Hall, Room G-144

Call (248) 486-6326

University of Windsor Sundays 5:00pm

University Community Church.

Call (519) 978-1495

Oakland University: (248) 374-5565

For info on other meetings, call:

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Buffalo, NY: 99.5 FM (WDCX) Sat. 8:45 am

Detroit, MI: 560 AM (WMUZ) Sat. 5:00 pm

Shortwave (Sundays 2:15 pm, EST)

WHRI 19 Metre band 15.355 MHz

Des Moines, IA: 1460 (KDML)

Sat. 7:30 am, Sun. 11:00 pm

Fort Wayne, IN: 1090 AM (WFCV) Sat. 4:00 pm

Council Bluffs, IA: 1560 AM (KLNG) Sun. 8:00am

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