



CROSS



THE WHOLE DIFFERENCE

THE CROSS—The WHOLE Difference!

This little story has always touched my heart. Quite a few years ago a small dog was frantically running along a backwoods Kentucky road, yelping at a high pitch. He was seeking for help because his master, a seven-year-old boy, was trapped in an old cave, slowly smothering beneath an earthslide. He attracted attention for the boy's rescue, and he was saved. That boy was Abe Lincoln. Many believe that the little dog made the difference—for a life, for a people, for a nation, yes—for history.

FOR MAN, THE CROSS IS THE WHOLE DIFFERENCE!

Yes, the cross makes the difference between light and darkness, good and evil, victory and defeat, success and failure—between Heaven and Hell. Everything hinges on a person's relationship to the Christ of the cross. That is the reason for the cross being the daily theme song for every true Christian. Always I confess with the veteran soldier, *"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Galatians 6:14). The cross is the heart, the nucleus, the core, the center for my faith. Take it away and I have nothing. The entire Bible can be summarized in two short sentences, **"I am a lost sinner"** and **"Christ died for me."** This transaction took place at the cross where the Word became flesh, emptied Himself and became obedient unto death (Philippians 2:6-8).

THERE AT THE CROSS, CHRIST CHANGED MY POSITION

I was a foreigner, but He made me a citizen (John

3:16, Eph. 2:16-19, Phil. 4:20). **I was an enemy but He made me a friend** (II Cor. 5:19, Eph. 2:14-16). **I was a stranger but He made me a son** (Eph. 1:5, John 1:12, I John 1:3, Rom. 8:14-17). **I was a slave but He set me free** (Rom. 6:16-22, Rom. 8:1-4). **I stood accused but He bought my forgiveness** (Gal. 3:10, 13, James 2:10, II Cor. 5:21, Isa. 53:6, I John 1:7, Isa. 1:18). **I was a debtor but He settled my account** (Eph. 1:7, Eph. 4:32, Heb. 10:19, John 8:36).

Only Jesus Christ could do this with His own precious blood. **Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin** (Hebrews 9:22). *There is no other way!* (John 14:6, Acts 4:12). True, this is contrary to logic. Yet it is God's fact, His truth, His revelation. *"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God"* (I Corinthians 1:18).

THERE AT THE CROSS, CHRIST CLARIFIED MY PURPOSE

There Christ possesses me. He bought me so my life is no longer my own. It now belongs to Him. My entire life—my time, my talents, my energy, my money—is branded by His mark of ownership—the CROSS (I Corinthians 6:19-20, I Peter 1:18-19).

Now my purpose is not to live for myself but for Him (II Corinthians 5:15). In love I give my all back to Him who first so loved me that He died for me. My entire life is now a *"thank-you"* to God who gave His blood for me on the cross. Do I ever think He requires too much? Never! At the cross, I have only this one regret—"Lord, I wish I had more to give Thee—more time, more energy, more money

because you gave your all for me.” The cross is no place for my left-overs. There I must give my best to Christ and His cause!

Always—I must abide at the **CROSS**. In the grace of the **CROSS** I have peace with God. In the Light of the **CROSS** I live unto God, In the power of the **CROSS** I point others to God’s redeeming love in Christ!

WHEN DEATH COMES—THE CROSS WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

With my eyes focused upon Christ, the Lamb of God slain for me on that cross, I depart in peace for “*the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin.*” I will never be graduated from the confession—“Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to thy cross I cling.” *That cross makes the whole difference!*

—Oscar C. Hanson

SUGGESTION: Use the scriptures referred to for individual or group study.

Gospel Tract Society, Inc.

PO Box 1118 Independence MO 64051

www.gospeltractsociety.org

This ministry maintained by the gifts of God’s people.

