

## WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

Galatians 6:14; I Corinthians 1:18

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

"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 Cor. 1:18).

These two passages emphasize that the theme of the gospel of Christ is the cross of Christ. Some have always placed emphasis on the moral and social benefits of the gospel while saying little or nothing about the fact that atonement for sin had to be made in order for man to be forgiven.

What do you see when you look at the cross of Christ? When I Survey The Wondrous Cross:

### DISCUSSION

#### I.I SEE THAT SIN IS A REALITY

- A. Isaiah 53:6: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Notice that: "of us *all*."
- B. One of the problems in getting people to obey the gospel is the problem of getting them to see they are lost because of their own sins.
  - 1. Rom. 3:10: "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."
  - 2. Verse 23: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
  - 3. Eccl. 7:20: "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."
- C. Heb. 2:9: "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."
- D. Many efforts are made to minimize the reality of sin, or to explain it away.
  - 1. Sin and salvation are both rather old-fashioned words, which at present are not very popular in polite intellectual society.
  - 2. Salvation consists in the attainment of a desirable type of personality and satisfactory relationship with other personalities.
  - 3. We are not sinners; we are victims of circumstances. Our misdeeds are misfortunes rather than faults or sins.
- E. But when I survey the wondrous cross, I know sin is real.

#### II.I SEE THE SELFISH NATURE OF SIN

- A. The very nature of sin is selfishness. There never was a sin committed that was not the choice of self in preference to God. In other words, there are two courses to follow:
  - 1. I can do what God wants me to do, or

2.I can do what I want to do instead. I sin only when I do this, and never when I do the first.

B.But the cross is a perfect picture of unselfishness.

1.John 6:38: "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."

2.Matthew 26:39: "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

3.Matthew 26:42: "He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."

C.How can I be so selfish as to sin, when I survey the wondrous cross and see the selfish nature of sin?

### **III.I SEE GOD'S HATRED OF SIN**

A.His very nature demands this. Habakkuk 1:13: "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity." God cannot be God and tolerate iniquity.

B.In order for God to be righteous, sin cannot go unpunished.

1.Romans 3:25-26: "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; {26} To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."

2.The punishment for sin is not a slap on the wrist. Look at the cross if you want to know how God hates sin.

C.If God hates sin so much, what should be my attitude toward it?

### **IV.I SEE GOD'S LOVE FOR SINNERS**

A.John 3:16

B.I John 3:1: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."

C.I confess to you, I cannot understand that kind of love for cruel and sinful man.

D.Romans 5:8: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

E.I challenge you to survey the wondrous cross and say God does not love you.

### **V.I SEE THE NECESSITY OF OBEDIENCE TO THE SCRIPTURES**

A."Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?" (Matthew 26:53-54).

B."And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:46-47).

C."And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient

unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8).

D. Is this bibliolatry? The worship of the Scriptures? No, it is reverence and respect for God, whose will is revealed in Scripture.

E. I challenge you to survey the wondrous cross, and say that obedience to the Scriptures is not necessary.

#### CONSLUSION

Read the words of the song, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."