



The Good News Messenger



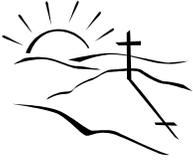
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The Beloved Cross

By: Tony Chancellor



Almost everyone has seen a picture of or has seen an actual cross, but not everyone has grasped the true meaning of the cross. The cross is a symbol or an image that to the true Christian brings tears to their eyes. Everyone has heard of the man Jesus, but for some people that is all that they know about him, that he was a man, a man who went about doing good, but there is so much more to the man called Jesus. I want to talk about the man behind the cross and I want to look deeper at who Jesus really is and what Jesus can and will do.

Jesus was sent to us from God, he was God's own son, and God loved us so much that He gave Jesus to us. In John 3:16 it tells us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." How much love do you have for others? How much love do you have for strangers? Would you be willing to give up your child's life for anyone? God was willing to and did, that is how much God loves the world and that is how much God loves you!

God's love is made manifest through God's Son Jesus Christ. Jesus had all power and all authority under heaven on earth, he would have been able to condemn the world, the angels would have come at his call, but instead he chose to give his life so that we might live. Once more in John 3:17 we see that "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." Jesus is the only way that we might be free. Here in America we take freedom for granted, we have such easy lives compared to those who live in the Philippines or Guatemala, but without Jesus Christ we are still confined to live life as a slave. We are a slave to sin, and our master is Satan. Whether or not we realize that, we are a slave and the only way to have true freedom is to come to the Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible teaches us that we can not have two masters, so we either sin or we don't; we can't be halfway saved. Matthew 6:24 says "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other..." but along with that we must realize that man can not live without sin except he be born again, be born of God. I John 3:8-9 "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

Jesus died on the cross for this purpose. He came down to earth to sacrifice himself so that man might be free from sin and might live fully as God would have him. Sinner, believe in God follow after Christ. Start searching for God and He will be waiting for you to give you salvation and to give you true freedom and to give you a life that will reflect the light of God that was shown through the man Jesus. The only way to have a perfect and happy life is to serve Jesus and to follow after God.



The Master Stood in His Garden

By: Thore Harris

The Master stood in His garden among the lilies so fair
His own right hand had planted and trained with tender care.
He looked on their snowy blossoms and marked with observant eye
That His flowers were sadly drooping,
For their leaves were parched and dry.

My lilies need to be watered, The heavenly Master said;
Where-in shall I draw it for them and raise each drooping head?
But close to His feet in the pathway, All empty and frail and small,
Was an earthen vessel lying which seemed of no use at all.

The Master saw and He raised it from dust in which it lay;
He smiled as He gently whispered, My work it shall do today;
'Tis only an earthen vessel, But close it is lying to me;
Tho' so small 'tis clean and empty, That is all it needs to be.

So forth to the fountain He bore it, And filled it full to the brim;
How glad the earthen vessel to be of use to Him!
He pored forth the living water, All over the lilies fair,
Till empty was the vessel and again He filled it there.

The drooping lilies He watered 'till all reviving again,
The Master saw with pleasure He labored not in vain.
His own hand had drawn the water refreshing the thirsting flowers;
But He used the earthen vessel to convey the living showers.

And then itself it whispered, as aside He laid it once more,
I still will lie in the pathway just where I lay before;
For close would I keep to the Master, and humble would I remain;
Perchance some day He'll use me to water His lilies again.

Sentence Sermons

By: A. K. Chancellor

Committing all things to God, and then trusting, is the surest way to gain a living knowledge.

Reading the Bible in a sincere manner, with no design but to improve one's own spiritual state, is the surest way to come to the truth.

Jesus came to save us from our sins, not to excuse us from the obligation to live holy.

Christ is now sitting on his throne of glory, able, willing and ready to help any soul in need – if that soul will but trust him.

Christ, though sitting on his throne of glory, ready, willing and able to help souls, will not impose on one.

God will not exclude any one from salvation – unless they eternally reject his mercy – but it is choice that makes the exclusion.

Reality

By: A. K. Chancellor

Facing reality is one of man’s greatest difficulties, though there is no way of escape, but it is not so bad when one is at peace with his Maker. It is rebellion against God that puts men into fear of the coming judgment. But why does man rebel? Because of a depraved nature. God is a Spirit (John 4:24). The only way we can communicate with God is with our spirit, we cannot do it with our hands, mouth, or any other means. Even when we pray aloud it is not the lips that God is reading, but the intents of the heart.

God accepts only spiritual worship, so if we try to worship him at no higher level than our mentality, it is vain. A carnal mind is not able to comprehend. God ordained the new birth and by it man is enabled to worship in spirit and in truth. In order to realize the new birth one has to repent, confess, make his wrongs right, and walk in truth. He must humble himself, or herself if such applies. Pride in the heart of the unregenerate is hard to conquer, but it can be done, and the way to salvation requires that we conquer self.

Man will never be restored to his Maker until he first admits to how wrong he has been and is. In many things a carnal person may seek to justify themselves, make room for the flesh. Thus with offended feelings and an attitude contrary to repentance he is locked out of the kingdom of God. A change is necessary!

We must all come to realize that the fall of Adam affected the whole of his posterity, and none of us escaped. The only way out of that state of wrath abiding upon us, is by repenting. The pit is deep, it is sticky, bad habits of life are binding, each one must be broken, its grips must be loosed.

Those who have tried to lift up themselves out of the pit still show traces of depravity, there is no way out but salvation, Jesus the blessed Redeemer must rescue us. We cannot improve ourselves short of the applied blood. Resolutions are not the way up, for they are as easily and quickly broken as made.

If you are not saved yet salvation out to be sought most diligently. Begin by humbling down before God. This is a good practice for those who are saved – always keep low at the Master’s feet. If the devil tries to make you feel like a fool, yet it is the wisest thing to do – the only way to true peace with God.

I Will No Longer Doubt Thee

By: B. E. Warren



Can I defeat my Savior’s plan, Trample his mercy in the dust?
How can I longer doubting remain If I but do what’s right and just.

I will reject all doubts and fears, I will believe and simply trust;
Thou hast said, “Cast on me thy cares,” Can I obey? Yes, Lord, I must.

Since I’m dependent, Lord, on thee, Why should I doubt thy saving grace?
If, by resisting, Satan must flee, Then I behold thy smiling face.

Shall I bring grief and sorrow again Into the heart of my dear Lord?
No, I’ll confess and honor his name, I will believe his precious word.

I will no longer doubt thee, O Lord, I will forever stand on thy word;
I will believe and simply trust; Can I have faith? Yes, Lord, I must.

“Have faith in God.”

Mark 11:22

Faith is the foot of the soul by which it can march along the road of the commandments. Love can make the feet move more swiftly; but faith *is* the foot which carries the soul. Faith is the oil enabling the wheels of holy devotion and of earnest piety to move well; and without faith the wheels are taken from the chariot and we drag heavily. With faith I can do all things; without faith I shall neither have the inclination nor the power to do anything in the service of God. If you would find the men who serve God the best, you must look for the men with the most faith. Little faith will save a man, but little faith cannot do great things for God. Poor Little-faith could not have fought “Apollyon”; it needed “Christian” to do that. Poor Little-faith could not have slain “Giant Despair”; it required “Great-heart’s” arm to knock that monster down. Little faith will go to heaven most certainly, but it often has to hide itself in a nut-shell, and it frequently loses all but its jewels. Little-faith says, “It is a rough road, beset with sharp thorns, and full of dangers; I am afraid to go”; but Great-faith remembers the promise, “Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; as thy days, so shall thy strength be”: and she boldly ventures. Little-faith stands desponding, mingling her tears with the flood; but Great-faith sings, “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee”: and she fords the stream at once. Would you be comfortable and happy? Would you enjoy religion? Would you have the religion of cheerfulness and not that of gloom? Then “have faith in God.” If you love darkness, and are satisfied to dwell in gloom and misery, then be content with little faith; but if you love the sunshine, and would sing songs of rejoicing, covet earnestly this best gift, “great faith.” – C. Spurgeon

Faith is Believing

By: D. O. Teaseley



Faith is believing, the promise is true,
Trusting in Jesus your strength to renew;
Resting so sweetly, secure on his word,
Shielded from danger with Jesus the Lord.

Faith is believing, why longer remain
Under the bondage of Satan’s domain?
See, tho’ all blood stained, the banner unfurled,
Faith is the victory that conquers the world.

Faith is believing the soul’s happy rest,
Faith is believing, tho’ sorely oppressed;
Singing in triumph whatever assail,
High on the mountain or low in the vale.

Faith is believing, then doubt him no more,
Sell all your sorrows, your troubles give o’er;
Soar in the sunlight above ev’ry cloud,
Triumph forever, believing in God.

Faith is believing, simply receiving,
What in his promise God has revealed;
Trust him forever, Doubt him, no never,
Till thy petition, his Spirit hath sealed.



Four Men Tear Up a Roof

Matt. 9:2-8; Mark 2:-12; Luke 5:18-26

Taken from Egermier's Picture Story Life of Christ

Wherever Jesus went, crowds followed him. In the streets, or even in the homes of Capernaum, many people gathered when they knew he was present. Some of these people were his friends, others were merely persons curious to hear him speak and to see him perform some miracle. Others followed for the purpose of finding fault with him.

One day while Jesus was in Capernaum so many people came to the house where he was staying, that they left no room for others to enter. Among them, as usual, were his disciples and friends, the curiosity seekers, and the faultfinders. These faultfinders were scribes and Pharisees who had come from far-off places to hear him. They had heard many reports about his wonderful teachings, and they wished to hear him for themselves. As he talked, they sat near by, watching every move he made.

Into that crowded room sick people had been brought, and Jesus healed them all. While he was preaching about the kingdom of God the listeners were surprised to hear a scrambling overhead. Presently the roof began to part, and the people saw a queer looking object being lowered from the ceiling. Soon they recognized the form of a crippled man lying on a bed.

On the roof were the four friends of this crippled man. They had tried to bring him to Jesus, but when they had carried him as far as the door they saw that it would not be possible to push through the crowd with their burden. Yet they were determined to bring this suffering man to the great Healer. The man was not able to move himself about, and day after day he had lain weak and helpless upon his bed because of the disease.

When the crowd had refused to make way for them to pass, the four friends carried the man up on the flat roof of the house. They tore up the roof tiling and saw where Jesus stood. This done, they tied ropes about the bed on which the man lay and lowered the bed very carefully into the room, before Jesus.

Of course the service was interrupted when the sick man was being lowered by the ropes from the roof. The onlookers wondered what Jesus would do. Perhaps some of them knew this sick man. They were all surprised when they heard Jesus say to him, "Son, be of good cheer, for your sins are forgiven."

The look of pain left the sick man's face, and a happy smile came instead. But the astonished people were not watching him. They were looking in surprise at the one who had dared to say, "Your sins are forgiven." They knew God had power to forgive sins, but they did not know that Jesus was the Son of God. The faultfinders began to say in their hearts, "Who is this who pretends to forgive sins? None except God can do that!"

Jesus knew their thoughts, and he said, "Why do you think evil of me in your hearts? Is it easier to tell the man that his sins are forgiven, or to tell him to rise up from his bed and walk? But that you may know I have power on earth to forgive sins too [Jesus turned to the helpless man lying on the couch before him and said], Arise, take up your bed, and return to your own house."

Immediately the stiffness departed from the sick man's limbs, and strength came into his body. Then he rose in the presence of all the people, rolled up the couch, or mat, upon which he had lain for many days, and lifted it up on his shoulders, just as well men carried their beds in that country. The surprised people made way for him, and he walked out through the crowd into the street to join his happy friends.

Great fear came upon the people in that crowded house. They glorified God, and said to each other as they hurried home, "Surely we have seen strange things today!"

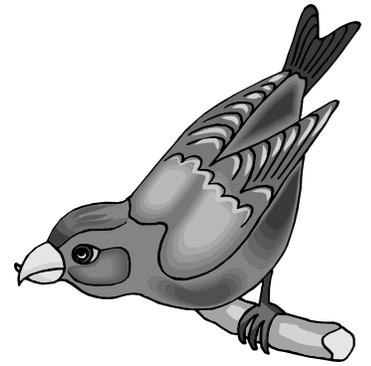
What the Redbird Told Me

By: C. W. Naylor

It was a cold winter morning. Snow covered the ground. The frost on the trees sparkled in the bright sunlight like ten thousand diamonds. But the brightness outside seemed to find no reflection in me. I had been confined to my bed for more than six months. I was gloomy and despondent. It seemed as though all the light and joy had gone out of my life and that only pain and suffering and sorrow were left to me. I had no desire to live. Again and again I prayed that I might die. I should have welcomed any form of death, even the most horrible. I had grown morbid, and almost despaired. I had been prayed for again and again, but the healing touch came not. Life seemed to hold for me no ray of hope, no gleam of sunshine.

As I lay brooding in my melancholy state, a red grosbeak, with his bright red plumage, alighted on a tree a few feet from my window. His eyes sparkled as he gazed at me with interest. He turned his head now this way and now that, apparently studying me intently, and then he gave a cheery call and hopped as near to me as he could get and repeated his cries over and over again. Somehow his cries took the form of words in my mind. This is what he said to me: "You, you, you, cheer up, cheer up, cheer up." He hopped about from limb to limb, wiping his beak, picking at pieces of bark, but ever and anon hopping back to look at me and cry again. "Cheer up, cheer up, cheer up." This he did for a long time, then he flew away, only to return soon and to peer at me again, crying his merry "You, you, you, cheer up, cheer up, cheer up." For more than two hours he continued to repeat this and then went away, and far in the distance I heard the last echoes of his notes still saying, "Cheer up, cheer up."

It seemed as though God had sent the bird to bring a message to my soul; and as I thought of the cold and snow and the winter winds, of the bird's uncertain supply of food, of his many enemies, and considered that, in spite of all this, he could be so cheerful and gay it made me feel ashamed that I should be so melancholy and despondent. His message, enforced by his example, sank into my heart. I began to think over the favorable side of my situation. I began to consider how many things the Lord had bestowed upon me in the past – his mercy, his kindness, and his blessings. My heart took courage, hope began to lift herself up from the dust. I reflected over the way I had yielded to discouragement. I saw that if I was ever to rise above it I must set myself resolutely to the task of looking upon the bright side and of overcoming the gloom and heaviness. The message of the bird made me ashamed to submit longer to my feelings. I resolved then and there that I would be different. And from that day I began to act and think and speak more cheerfully. Many times I had to act contrary to the way I felt, but I found that this was having an influence on my feelings, and the more I practiced being cheerful the more cheerful I became. Many times I have been sorely pressed down in spirit, but I have found that I can act cheerfully and talk cheerfully even in the midst of depression, and that this is not hypocrisy, but the true way in which to meet such things and conquer them.



What the Redbird Told Me (cont'd)

Cheerfulness is largely a matter of habit. We must do one of two things – either yield to our feelings and let them be our master or compel our feelings to yield to us that we may be their master. It is a case of conquering or being conquered. So many persons are at the mercy of their emotions. If they do not feel well in body, or their mind is troubled, or their spiritual sky is clouded, they yield themselves to gloomy thoughts and look upon the dark side of the picture. Their thoughts and feelings are reflected in their faces and actions and words. This, in turn, reacts upon them, and they feel worse in body and mind. Everyone around them knows how they feel. This is putting a premium on your bad feelings. It is encouraging them. And it is a very bad habit. You can be cheerful if you will. Do not wear your troubles on your face. Do not let them put a note of sadness in your voice. Cease your sighing; you are only adding to your burdens. Take the bird's advice and cheer up. You can if you will. You can hide your burdens instead of advertising them. To hide them will help you to forget them. You have a place to put your burdens – "Casting all your care upon him."



I still suffer; I still have periods of mental depression; but I have learned to be cheerful and not let these things be on exhibition. I find it now the easier, and by far the better, way. Cheerfulness is a habit; get the habit. It depends upon you, not upon your circumstances. You can rule your circumstances instead of letting them rule you. Take hold of your bad feelings with a will and conquer them with cheerfulness. The task may not be easy at first, but keep at it and you will win. Do not despair if you lose a few battles. You may have cultivated gloom for so long a time that it has become the fixed state of your mind. Overcome the habit. God will help you. When your feelings become gloomy, say, "I will not be so," and force your mind into other channels. It will want to go back to its former habit, but as often as you catch yourself thinking along gloomy lines turn your thoughts back to the sunshine. Put good cheer into your voice and a smile on your face, no matter how you feel. It will prove a tonic for soul, mind and body. Listen to the redbird. Hear his merry "Cheer up, cheer up," and act upon his advice. You will find it worthwhile.

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Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Young People's Service	4:45 p.m.
Sunday Children's Service	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.

Where is Faith?

By: A. K. Chancellor

(And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? ~ Luke 18:1-8)

In the parable of Luke 18:1-8, we find this question, "shall he find faith?" Here is the thought that I get and would gladly consider it otherwise if I could see it so.

There are things God has indisputably promised to his believing children, and they are just as much a part of his will as is salvation, but because of the prevailing spirit of unbelief a good number of professed believers are not receiving what they stand in need of. It is a known fact that God is glorified by our bearing fruit, and part of this is found in the stand we take and the results we get from praying through in faith. Yet the lukewarmness of our age, the devices of the enemy, and the indifference to spiritual things hinder many souls from prevailing in prayer for their needs.

Although Jesus specifically teaches importuning, both here and in the eleventh chapter of Luke, yet some believe that once is all we are to ask, and they limit their activity on the epistle of John, where John says that if we know that he hears us, we have the petition we have asked. But John did not intend to nullify what Christ himself taught through Luke. Then others will say, if it be thy will! If we cannot read the will of God in the written pages, where else will we find it? His will is recorded there for all other considerations, why not in the field of physical healing and temporal needs? And do we doubt whether or not it is his will to save? We may not, but some people do!

But God's will, generally speaking, is no mystery – there are some things it is not even necessary to ask whether or not it is in his will, for the Bible declares such plainly. Too often we give up too easily in pressing for our needs. God knows our needs before we ask, and do we not need a healthy body through which to serve God?

In the light of all that is happening, I too am beginning to wonder if he will find faith on the earth when he comes. Sound teaching will produce definite results, but questionable teaching leaves people with nothing to hold to or seek after. We must believe God's word, that "all promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen!" (2 Corinthians 1:20). Therefore let us put on our weapons of war and go after those things which glorify God – let us keep faith alive and working.

