



Cross at the End of the Road

“Cross at the End of the Road” is also in the beginning of the Journey – or is not yet ready to roll. I am not a theologian, nor a scholar of the Bible; but I am called to learn God’s word and, by his power and presence, to live it.

By

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Introduction



“Cross at the End of the Road” is also in the beginning of the Journey
To live it is to embark on and continue this journey that, by God’s will and to his pleasure, leads one to the Cross at the End of the Road, to Calvary.

Jesus said that anyone that wants to follow him must Take-Up their cross and follow him. What does that mean...what does it mean to take up the cross? Understanding and accepting that Jesus both literally (Via Dolorosa) and figuratively took up the cross - in obedience to the father, the concept or understanding is that taking up the cross involves much Sacrifice, even Suffering.

Paul (the apostle) described his own pilgrimage as to press on toward the upward call in Christ; and Paul was certainly familiar with sacrifice and suffering. This Website will be dedicated to looking to Christ, to the cross at the end of the Road? ...and more to come...

“Prepare God’s Arrival”



What a construction project...and with all this with *foul weather* on the way! No, this is isn't another actual highway project; but something much bigger; it is the capital project of a lifetime...and beyond!

To “prepare God’s arrival” (or to prepare for God’s arrival) is the “journey” before us – as we came from God and so too must we return.

Am I ready to go; am I prepared to prepare for his arrival...

Luke 3 (and Isaiah)

Thunder in the desert! “Prepare God’s arrival!

Make the road smooth and straight!

Every ditch will be filled in,

Every bump smoothed out,

The detours straightened out,

All the ruts paved over.

Everyone will be there to see

The parade of God’s salvation.”

- *The Message*

“The Road Runs Through It?”



Wait a minute; does this mean that a road runs through the river Jordan? Yep, and not only that, but the Hebrews must pass through the Jordan – just as they did the Red Sea.

It's one thing to cross a river by bridge or by boat; but to cross it by walking along the bed seems quite incredible – unless your some bottom-feeding marine life!

Walking on water takes faith (as Peter would show); but walking through water takes trust...

Deuteronomy 12

Until now you haven't arrived at the goal, the resting place, the inheritance that God, your God, is giving you. But the minute you cross the Jordan River and settle into the land God, your God, is enabling you to inherit, he'll give you rest from all your surrounding enemies. You'll be able to settle down and live in safety.

- *The Message*

“From Ur to Eternity”



Abraham (or Abram) left his home in Ur because God told him to; sure, it was hard – on several levels – but he did it!

Did Abram know what lied ahead; what difficulties and hardships awaited him? No, he stepped-out on faith – and because of his faith – was made righteous by God. Imagine being 70 plus years old – and having no children; yet, trusting God that he would find this land and that he would have much family, many descendents...

Genesis 12

God told Abram: “Leave your country, your family, and your father’s home for a land that I will show you.

I’ll make you a great nation and bless you.

I’ll make you famous; you’ll be a blessing.

I’ll bless those who bless you; those who curse you I’ll curse.

All the families of the Earth will be blessed through you.”

- *The Message*

“The Way to Life”



Jesus instructed his disciples; he taught them about the life of a believer – both now and in the future.

In teaching or instructing them – both in word and by example – he did not offer any “shortcuts” on *easy street*. *What he told them was to not “fall for that stuff” as it will not work!*

A “vigorous” way awaits every believer; exciting, rewarding, challenging, sacrificing and even suffering...but what of it?

Matthew 7

“Don’t look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don’t fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life—to God!—is vigorous and requires total attention.

- *The Message*

“Go and be Good”



“The Good Samaritan” is a story that is timeless...and for all ages; it represents the basic truth that love begins with compassion...and then action.

A Samaritan was considered a sub-cast of society; and must have been considered an unlikely hero or champion.

For the one who was hurt, the aid of a Samaritan was of no consequence; and apparently so for the Samaritan who shows us that compassion and love has no limits

Luke 10

“A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man’s condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds...”

“What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?”

Jesus said, “Go and do the same.”

- *The Message*

“Be Strong”



The immediate connotation of strength – or being strong – is a lean, muscular body; but since God does not have a physical body (that I know of), strength must be found by some other measure.

Paul uses the analogy of a warrior who prepares for body by ensuring his fighting strength; or an athlete who practices – but this is figurative to represent that the believer must prepare the spirit for a contest of a different sort...

Ephesians 10

God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything... This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish

- *The Message*

“Sowing for the Harvest”



Another analogy was farming or agriculture – since this was such a common vocation at the time.

In another letter to the church, Paul warns that those who plant selfishness (or bad seed) would have no yield or produce; but for those who plant “in response to God” (or good seed) will reap a harvest.

I understand farming to be more than a full-time job – and so...

Galatians 6

What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he’ll have to show for his life is weeds! But the one who plants in response to God, letting God’s Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.

- *The Message*

“Planted Prayer”



Praying is talking to God; and talking to God is praying; either way, this practice acknowledges the first measure of faith – believing in God!

Prayer is possible because of Christ – who made it possible when he went to the cross: Christ is the mediator in our prayers and the Spirit is our helper – who helps us know what to pray.

God, Christ and Spirit...

Galatians 3

My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth...

And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all Christians the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love.

- *The Message*

“Feed on Christ”



Jesus described himself as *the bread of life*. He offered himself as – like Bread – a nourishment for his followers. Like the manna that was given to the Hebrews in the desert, so is Christ for the world. Unlike this manna, the *bread of life* is eternal – as is those who take the bread and “feed on Christ”.

John 6

I am the Bread of Life. Your ancestors ate the manna bread in the desert and died. But now here is Bread that truly comes down out of heaven. Anyone eating this Bread will not die, ever...

I am the Bread—living Bread!—who came down out of heaven. Anyone who eats this Bread will live—and forever!

- *The Message*