

DRAWING POWER OF THE CROSS

Christ stated, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” (John 12:32). Burton Coffman in his commentary on the book of John writes:

“The primary reference of this is to Jesus’ death by being lifted up upon the cross; but the words suggest other truth also. Christ was lifted up from the grave; he was lifted up into heaven; he has been lifted up in the hearts of men by the preaching of the gospel in all ages since then” (p. 302).

What drawing powers the cross has! Can you imagine a harden centurion even taking the time to look up at a condemned criminal, yet, on this occasion he said, “Truly this was the Son of God” (Matthew 27:54). An angry mob was there. This mob consisted of those that “passed by” (Matthew 27:39), “religious leaders” (Matthew 27:41), “two thieves” (Matthew 27:38), “the soldiers” (Matthew 27:27), and even “compassionate women” (Matthew 27:56). The truth is the world has been drawn to the cross since that horrible day. Why or how does the cross have such a drawing power?

The Cross touches or draws through the heart. For one to read the account of the cross with the agony, pain, suffering, hopelessness and it not affect your heart, something would be wrong. Isaiah 53 is a perfect example of how the story of the cross touches our heart. We can see a man of sorrow, “...a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief (53:3). There is also a man put to shame, “...he was despised and we esteemed him not” (53:3). This one on the cross was a man of sufferings, “...the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed” (53:5). There is a man of solitude on the cross, “...He was oppressed and he was

afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth” (53:7). This point of solitude is the most difficult for me. Imagine the Son of God on the Cross as he cried out “...Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me” (Matthew 27:46), and no one answer? Why did the Son of God do this? Why suffer the shame, sorrow, and solitude? Because he loved us! He was willing to do the will of His Father (Matthew 26:39,42,44). How can this not pull at our heartstrings?

Another draw of the Cross is that it brings hope. In the darkest moment in time there was hope! Satan may have thought he won and that the Son of God was dead and forgotten, but HE AROSE! When the women arrived early at the tomb, what they found was an angel which said, “...fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen” (Matthew 28:5,6). Hope springs out of tragedy. There is hope from the grave. In Luke’s account of this great event, he records the angel as saying, “...why seek ye the living among the dead” (Luke 24:5)? Christ is not dead! Our hope over the grave is based on what Christ did. Paul records, “...death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:54-57). There is hope for the grieving. God has promised, “...to wipe away all tears” (Revelation 21:4) and this is done through the cross and our Lord’s resurrection. To all those who are weeping at the edge of a grave, you can look up to the cross and see hope! To all those who may be crying at the bedside of one who is extremely ill, you can look up to the cross and see hope! This is why the cross has the ability to draw all unto it.

Third, the Cross draws because of the promise of Heaven. God’s plan of redemption runs through the cross.

Christ said of His Father, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Paul records that “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Because Christ made the sacrifice on the cross, we have the promise of the reward. Don’t you love the words of Paul when he said, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7,8). Everyone who is drawn by the cross has the promise of that crown! One excitement to consider is the great reunion that will occur in heaven. All the saints of all ages will be there (Matthew 25:31-46). Heaven truly is brighter with all those we love which have gone on before us. What a glorious reunion it will be. For all those who have been drawn by the cross comes the promise of a rest. John wrote, “...that they may rest from their labours” (Revelation 14:13). Now is not the time to rest, but we can look to the cross and see that our rest is at hand.

The Cross has an amazing power to draw. Does the Cross draw you?

Ronnie Hayes from *Sapulpa Bulletin*

“Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.”
John 12:31-33

ANNIVERSARY

Jeff and Monica Nemecek, 11-04.

ILL

Sunday: Stan Anderson (PM); Debbie Schleif; Millie Robertson.

Wednesday: Janice Carter; Millie Robertson.

Elizabeth Ray, Clara Scott's sister, is in St. Joseph's Hospital. Paula Stillwell's mother had a heart stint placed last week. Shauna Heck, Dudley Morton's daughter, has a recurrence of cancer.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards was in Chicago on business. The Marcum's were in Clay Center, KS last week.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, November 1, following our AM worship. Plan to come and enjoy the good food and company!

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, November 8, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

AREA MEETING

Brother Richard Massey will conduct a meeting at Chipman Road, November 1-4. See the flyer for details.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 45; Sunday PM, 30; Wednesday PM, 22.

Those To Serve

November 1, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thrasher (2)

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Trent Thrasher
SONG LEADER.....Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER.....John Dodson
PRESIDE.....Chris Edwards
ASSIST.....Stanley Anderson
ASSIST.....Steven Schleif
CLOSING PRAYER.....Jared Nelson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER.....Jeff Nemecek
CLOSING PRAYER.....John Cody Carter
LORD'S SUPPER.....Chris Edwards

WEDNESDAY 4th

SONG LEADER.....John Cody Carter
INVITATION.....Trent Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study..... 9:30 AM
Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM
Evening Worship..... 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study..... 10:00 AM
Bible Study..... 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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