

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

Int.

1. Aim: Aim: To notice the Bible truths from this lovely hymn
2. Col. 3:16 **"teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns."**
3. This hymn "The Old Rugged Cross"
 - a. Written by George Bennard in 1913 - Albion, Michigan - died in 1958
 - b. In his life he had just come through some trying experiences.
 - c. He believed that the cross was the heart of the gospel
4. The thoughts of this song are rooted in scripture

Discussion

I. VERSE ONE

A. Hill Far away

1. Called Golgotha - 3 times- Mt. 27:33, Mk. 15:22, Jn. 19:17
2. In Hebrew it means - ball, round, or skull like mound or hill
3. Calvary is the Latin term
4. In Lk. 23:33 it is called **"the place of the skull"** ASV Calvary in KJV
5. May have been called this because of the horrible executions which took place there
6. There is a Moslem cemetery on that hill today

B. Stood an old rugged cross

1. It still stands in the minds and hearts of all Christians today
2. It was rugged because it was hewn from a tree - 1 Pet. 2:24 **"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."**
3. Beams may have been 10 inches square and probably weighed between 100-200 lbs.

C. Emblem of suffering and shame

1. Never been a more painful death
2. Headaches, dehydration, loss of blood, suffocation, nausea, convulsions, tetanus, and exposure to elements are some of things which happen to those crucified.
3. There was also the bearing of the sins of the world
 - a. Isa. 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."**
 - b. Isa. 53:11 **"He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."**
 - c. Isa. 53:12 **"Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."**
4. It was a place of shame
 - a. Gal. 3:13 **"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"**
 - b. This form of death was reserved for the most evil of men
 - c. Being crucified between 2 thieves was in effect saying that he was the worst of the three

D. I love that old cross

1. Why? Because the "Dearest and best" person who ever lived hung on that cross.
2. Christ is called the dear son - Col. 1:13 **"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"**
3. He should be dear to us since he tasted death for every one of us - Heb. 2:9
4. I Jn. 4:10 **"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."**
5. Christ is the best because he was sinless - I Pet. 2:22 **"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:"**

E. For a world of lost sinners was slain

1. Christ was slain
2. Rom. 1 tells that the Gentiles are lost
3. Rom. 2 tells that the Jews are lost
4. Rom. 3 tells us that the whole world is lost - v. 23
5. Jesus died to be the Savior of the whole world
 - a. Jn. 4:42 **"And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard [him] ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world."**
 - b. Lk. 19:10 **"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."**
6. In Rev. 5:6 Christ is pictured as a lamb that had been slain
7. Jesus died for a world of lost sinners

II. VERSE TWO

A. So Despised by the World

1. The Jews despised the cross because it brought an end to the law of Moses
 - a. Gal. 2:20 **"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."**
 - b. Col.2:14 - nailed the law to the cross
2. The Greeks despised the cross because it was contrary to human wisdom - 1 Cor. 1:22-23 **"For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23. But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;"**
3. The World today despises the cross because it reveals man as he really is
 - a. The cross is a beacon of light to a world in darkness
 - b. Sinners love darkness rather than light - Jn. 3:19 **"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."**

4. The devil despises the cross because he knows it spells his doom - I Jn. 3:8 **"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."**
5. Unfaithful Christians despise the cross when they go back into sin and crucify the son of God afresh - Heb. 6:4-6

B. Has a wondrous attraction for me

1. To the faithful Christian it is attractive
 - a. In it we see the power and wisdom of God - I Cor. 1:24 **"But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."**
 - b. We see a selfless act because Christ laid down his life for us. - Jn. 10:18 **"No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."**
2. It is attractive to us because the Dear Lamb of God left his glory above to bear it to dark calvary.
 - a. He left heaven and its glory to come to this sin cursed world
 - b. He left riches and became poor that we might become rich- II Cor. 8:9 **"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."**
 - c. Jn. 17:5 **"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."**
 - d. Phil. 2:6-8 **"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."**

3. It was "dark" calvary
 - a. That was the darkest day in the history of the world
 - b. Lk. 23:44-45 **"And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. 45. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst."**

III. **VERSE FOUR**

- A. To the Old Rugged Cross I will ever be true
 1. We as Christians will gladly bear its shame and reproach
 2. Heb. 12:2 -- Christians should joyfully endure the shame and reproach of following Christ who hung on that old rugged cross
 3. Heb. 13:13 **"Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach."**
 4. Acts 5:41 **"And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."**

- B. If we will do this he will "Call me some day to my home far away."
 1. Our citizenship is in heaven - Phil. 3:20 - this world is not our home.
 2. We are strangers and pilgrims - I Pet. 2:11
 3. Heaven will truly be a home - Our Father will be there - Christ the Son will be there -- our brothers and sisters in Christ will be there
 4. Heaven is a place where we will share his glory forever.
 - a. We are joint-heirs with Christ
 - b. The sufferings of this world are nothing compared to the glory that shall be ours in heaven - Rm. 8:16-17

Conclusion

1. Chorus We must "Cherish the old Rugged Cross and "cling" to it
 - a. If we love it - we will cling to it
 - b. We must cherish and cling to the cross until we lay our trophies down

2. Death will bring a cessation of all earthly affairs
 - a. Then we will exchange the cross for a crown
 - b. Paul said - II Tim. 4:7-8 **"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8. 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."**

3. But what was the great power and influence of the cross of Jesus?
 - a. The Romans had crucified thousands before and after Christ.
 - b. The difference was that God raised him from the grave.!!
 - c. If he had not been resurrected then the Cross would have been nothing

4. Will you let the death of Christ on the cross motivate you to cling to the cross.?

Bibliography

Sermons from Songs by John Stacy

THE CROSS

The cross of Christ is the greatest of all paradoxes. It was the most tragic event in the history of the world. Yet the most wonderful thing that ever happened. It was the saddest spectacle man ever beheld, yet out of it came the greatest joy. The cross was Satan's greatest victory and Christ's most humiliating defeat, yet it was the most stunning defeat Satan ever suffered and the most glorious victory Christ ever won. Christ won by losing. He conquered by surrendering.

The cross was the greatest exhibition of divine justice in condemning sin, *yet* the most wonderful demonstration of divine mercy in pardoning sin. It was God's greatest manifestation of hatred for sin, yet his supreme proof of love for the sinner. The cross was the means by which God's justice condemned sin and his mercy forgave it. The cross was the darkest hour in history, yet it was the time of greatest light. Though the sun refused to shine, and God hid his face from Christ, the cross was the means by which Christ really became the "light of the world." In the cross we see man's hatred for Christ, yet we see Christ's love for man. There we see human vengeance as they cry for his blood, yet we see divine forgiveness as Jesus prays "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

The cross portrays man's sinfulness and God's holiness: human weakness and divine strength, It shows man's inability to save himself, and God's ability and power to do this for man. The cross, from the human standpoint, is foolishness, yet it is a revelation of the highest wisdom of God.

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