

# THE CHRIST

by ROY LONEY

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## PREFACE

Several years ago I received a letter from a sister in another state and she seemed considerably disturbed because of the lack of progress being made by her home church; and she asked me "What can we sisters do to make the church active in God's work? Then she stated that she had lived there more than eight years, and in that time she was sure that less than one new member a year had been added to the church. Her cry was "What can we women do to help advance the Cause here?"

I was rather disturbed by her letter as I knew the sister and respected her as a good Christian woman; and so I immediately wrote her an outline of what women can do in the church, with the consent of the elders and the membership. I was acquainted with that particular congregation as I had spoken there several times. Several months elapsed before I heard from her again, and she thanked me for my suggestions and stated that the sisters there were practicing what I had outlined and then she stated that in addition to what I had suggested the elders had suggested that the sister print a church bulletin, they were to either write or select the articles to be printed in the bulletin. She sent me a copy of one of the bulletins and then she said "I find it easy to write these things, but *when doing personal work, I find it hard to talk about Christ.*"

I was rather astonished by her statement, "*I find it hard to talk about Christ.*" I have given that statement a great deal of thought during the intervening years. It seems so strange that many professed Christians cannot talk to people about

Christ. We are professed Christians and as such we claim to be followers of Christ. That being true we are supposed to be intimately acquainted with Christ; and yet we are tongue tied when the opportunity comes for us to tell people of the divine, sinless One! *How strange!* Paul speaks of the fact that Christ is to be our "all and in all" Col. 3:11, 12, and in the Old Testament He is spoken of as the "Fairest among ten thousand and one altogether lovely." No one ever lived that has had such great moral and spiritual influence as Christ. In every land His name is known and revered. The record of his life has been before the world for over 1900 years and as yet no blemish of fault has been found in his life. The famed Robert G. Ingersol the great American infidel once said of Christ "I pay him the homage of reverence and my tears, and yet his professed followers find it difficult to talk about him!" This is more than strange, it is shocking and inexcusable! Aren't we acquainted with Jesus? Do we really know him? If he is our friend and brother, why is it so difficult to talk about him. We sing praises to his name but we cannot tell our neighbors what he is and what he means to us! Is it any wonder that the church has so little influence.

The purpose of this booklet is to acquaint people with the Saviour and Redeemer. Paul once said "For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." I Cor. 2:2. The greatest favor I can do for you is to acquaint you with the wonderful man who lived and died for you. May you read thus:

More about Jesus would I know,  
More of his grace to others show,  
More of his saving fullness see,  
More of his love who died for me

## THE CHRIST

The man trudged the dusty highway that led from Nazareth to Jerusalem. Upon a donkey was seated a woman heavy with child. They came to the little sheep town of Bethlehem, which was their destination. Hoping to find accommodations over night, they were disappointed that there was no room for them in the inn. Accepting the shelter of a stable, they prepared to spend the night. That night, while shepherds watched their flocks upon Judean hills, a tiny babe was born. The Angels of God sang melodiously, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will to men."

The great city of Jerusalem did not know of the events transpiring in Bethlehem only a short few miles away. But that babe wrapped in swaddling clothes was destined to become the worlds most famous personage. Wise men coming from the east, came to the house where the babe was now sheltered, presented presents, gifts of gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Warned in a dream by the Lord, the man took the young child and his mother to Egypt.

We know not how long they remained in Egypt, but the man received a message from God. He then returned to Nazareth, and took up the trade of carpenter. Of this baby's boyhood and youth, not much is known, except that when he was twelve years old, while attending the Passover feast in Jerusalem, he was lost from his parents for three days. His mother was astonished at his reply at her warm and stern rebuke. "Know ye not that I must be about my father's business?" Mary, the mother, did not understand those words

but knew that the child was of extraordinary origin, and she hid those things in her heart.

The years passed quickly and quietly. Working in the carpentry shop with his foster father until thirty years of age. He traveled to the river Jordan, where John the Baptist was baptizing thousands of penitent believers. He demanded baptism of John who refused at first, saying, "I need to be baptized of you." The heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, as he received baptism at the hands of John the Baptist.

Driven by the Spirit into the wilderness, there to be tempted, (this extraordinary person fasted forty days and forty nights). Overcoming his temptation, by the Word of God, Satan left him for a time.

Returning to His home town, the tools of a carpenter were laid away, and Jesus began to teach and to heal the multitudes. The incurable disease of leprosy yielded to His voice. Graves were opened and the dead came to life. All manner of diseases yielded to His authoritative voice.

He taught the people the way of righteous living. He revealed God as a Father of love and affection. He condemned the hypocrisy of the Scribes and the Pharisees. They hated Him and plotted His death. Finally receiving permission from Judea's governor, they put Him to death. For six long hours He suffered the pain of crucifixion. His life ended in one last triumphant statement, "It is Finished." They buried Him in a new hewn grave, but that grave couldn't contain Him. On the third day the empty tomb revealed the truthfulness of His own predictions. Upon meeting His disciples they were overjoyed when they knew that the Son of God had come forth from the grave.

For forty days Jesus was with His disciples. Finally, from the Mount of Olives, He was received up into Heaven, where God vacated His own throne, and gave to Jesus, His Son, the rulership of the kingdom of God. There He still reigns.

That all happened nineteen centuries ago. The name of Jesus has become the best known name in human history. Untold millions have been led to a nobler and higher life, and in the many, many cemeteries, untold millions, while drying

their tears are saying, "We shall meet again."

In memory I hear the sweet voice of my mother singing,

"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
in a believers ear.

It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,  
And drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
And calms the troubled breast,

'Tis manna to the hungry soul,  
And to the weary rest."

### THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." I Timothy 3:16.

Perhaps there is no Biblical fact that is more mysterious, or harder to accept than the incarnation of Christ. The word incarnation means "taking on a human form by a divine being." Or as defined in my dictionary, "The union of divine nature with human nature in the person of Jesus Christ."

When the angel appeared to the virgin Mary and informed her of her approaching pregnancy, Mary did not doubt, but was puzzled. She could not understand how she could be pregnant as she was unmarried. She knew not a man. The angel informed her "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name Jesus." Luke 1:31. Furthermore the angel stated, "Behold the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee, therefore also that holy thing that shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35. This was to be in fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14, "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and thou shalt call his name "Immanuel" which means "God with us."

Many stumble at the thought of a woman bearing a child, and not having relation with a man. Of course that is a mystery; but even the birth of a child or even an animal is mysterious. I've seen my own children born and witnessed

the birth of many domestic animals, and always such births are mysterious. A tiny seed, containing the germ of life, is deposited in the mother's womb, and after a few months it grows into a baby, that after birth will partake of the characteristics of both father and mother, and time will grow into mature manhood. We witness that process so often, and yet cannot explain the mysteries of conception and birth. If the Almighty could, at the beginning, form man of the dust of the earth, why then is the work of God tried to be explained by man? The germination of a seed of a plant, and the conception of a child, in both cases center in a germ of life, and now after 6,000 years of recorded history, man is still in utter ignorance of the origin of life. Man's incapacity to solve or understand the workings of God leaves him nothing of which to boast. A tiny seed planted in the soil, warmed by the sun and moistened by the rain will germinate and grow to maturity. We see it each year and still cannot explain it. So, while we cannot understand how a virgin can conceive and bear a child, it is taught in the infallible Word of God, and I believe it. Jesus was not the son of Joseph, *but the Son of God!*

In at least 20 passages, Jesus is declared to be the Son of God; and I quote Romans 1:4, "And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." But now we come to the question as to why Jesus came from heaven became a man and left his real divinity in heaven.

First, He came to reveal God to man. For ages past man has pondered the nature of God's person. We are often faced by the question recorded in the scripture, "Cans't thou by searching find out God?" Job 11:7. Man has always searched for God, he sees in nature the great power of God — the multitude of stars, planets, and the innumerable creatures upon the earth; but as to the personality of God, his character, and his person, man does not know, and that is why man is so often astray from God. And so many have cried with Job 23:2, "O that I knew where I might find him; that I might come even to his seat." Jesus knowing man's ignorance of God, once in a prayer to the Lord, cried, "O

righteous Father, the world hath not known thee," John 17:25. And that was his real reason for his incarnation — that he might reveal God to man. He added, "But I have known thee and these (apostles) have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it that the love where with thou has loved me may be in them." John 20:25-26. Inasmuch as Jesus knew the world was ignorant of God, he was determined to reveal God to them, and once when Philip asked, "Lord shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us." Jesus's answer was most revealing: "Have I been so long time with you, and you have not known me Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; how sayest thou then, shew us the Father." John 14:8-9. A most remarkable statement! It means that Christ was the personifying of God. Paul declared that Christ was the image of the Invisible God, the first born of every creature. And in Philippians 2:6, it is declared "that Christ, who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God." He was God revealed in man. His character, his idealism and nobility all reveal the moral and spiritual nature of God. And so, if we want to know all about God, we can and do see God in Christ. For "in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodilly." Col. 2:9. Is this not all very wonderful? We know God by knowing Christ, for Christ is revealed in the Holy Writ. Paul in that most unusual speech recorded in Acts 17th chapter, said in part, "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, though He be not far from any of us: for in Him we live and have our being....".

And so thus through Christ we can and do obey David's injunction to his son Solomon, "Know thou the God of thy fathers and serve him with a perfect heart." I Chron. 28:9. There can be a perfect service only when we truly know God through the person of our Lord's Jesus Christ. How great should be our desire to have a knowledge of the Father, that a perfect service may be given. What a joy to be able to say we know God! I am reminded of Job's statement, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eyes seeth thee." Job 42:5.

Second — Jesus came that he might teach us how to live so that we can please God. In other words he is our perfect example. In learning of God through nature, we fail to learn of God's will for us. The bounties of nature teach us God's goodness, but at the same time the devastating storms that destroy property and take human lives, may also reveal His wrath and left to nature we have nothing of a moral and spiritual nature to reveal God's purpose for us.

But now we come to some question. . .Why did Jesus become incarnate? We are not left in doubt. He came to reveal God to man. John 1:14, states, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." His glory manifested in his life, teaching and works was of God and revealed to us the glory and the dignity of God. Once when Jesus was telling them of the Father, Philip said to Christ, "Lord show us the Father and it sufficeth us." Jesus answered him, "Have I been so long time with you and yet thou hast not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father, and how sayeth thou, shew us the Father?" The purity of Jesus's life, the grandeur of his character and the nature of his teaching all reveal to us the personality of God. Jesus was God personified.

### THE POVERTY OF CHRIST

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich yet for your sakes he became poor, that we through his poverty might become rich." II Corinthians 8:9.

The above verse is one of the most impressive found in the entire New Testament. It depicts the deep concern for poverty stricken humanity. The human race was poor because they were lost in sin. There was nothing man could do by his own strength to restore the wealth he once enjoyed. And so the Lord Jesus gave up his wealth, willingly and gladly in order to enrich mankind.

We do not know, nor can we now know just how rich Christ was before he became so poor. The wealth of heaven

was His without reserve, and never forget that the wealth of heaven was His by divine right. He was God's Son and could claim the wealth of heaven for that reason; but this He did not do. In obedience to his Father's request he gladly gave up all that heaven contained, in order to enrich poverty stricken man.

Many have lost their wealth through poor investments or some unfortunate circumstance like a depression at which time many thousands lost all their property. No misfortune affected Christ, nor had he made any unwise investments; but He looked down from heaven and beheld man in his extreme conditions, lost and ruined before God. He said in principle, "I will go and save them regardless of the cost to me."

While we cannot know the extent and nature of Jesus's wealth before he became poor, yet we do know the extent of his poverty while on earth. Once a young man purposed to follow him. Jesus stated in no unmistakable terms, "The Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Luke 9:58. No home was his. He could claim no shelter from nature's storms, and when He came to die, all He possessed was the clothes He wore, and on the cross they were taken from him by the soldiers that crucified him. Years ago a homeless man wrote:

Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam  
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.  
An exile from home splendor dazzles in vain,  
O give me that lowly thatched cottage again.

Whether or not Jesus ever longed for the pleasures and wealth of his home we cannot say. He had a great mission to perform, and nothing else mattered until that mission was accomplished, he would then know that the wealth he had forfeited would once more be his to enjoy. But please note the expression "For your sakes he became poor." There is a world of information in that simple statement. He had no selfish motive whatever. His only concern was the ruined condition of man. I think that only a divine being could conceive of such a sacrifice, and only a divine being could accomplish such a task. And so the great tragedy of Calvary took place. And the story of Calvary has brought unnumbered thousands with bowed heads and humbled

hearts to the feet of God. God grant that you have been one of them!

Several years ago I attended the funeral and burial of an entire family who during the depression lost their farm and some of their livestock. The man's mind was affected by their losses and ensuing poverty, and one day he brutally murdered his wife and little daughter and a stepson, and then climbed the windmill, and with a rope hung himself. That ended their material poverty, but what was gained? Nothing! It brought no riches, nor peace of mind, only death. Jesus was brutally slain upon Calvary's cross and through that horrifying death he has brought eternal riches to all who will accept his great sacrifice and so we quote, "*That we through his poverty might be rich.*" I have known poverty, being the son of a preacher and then becoming a preacher myself, one never tastes riches. Preaching the gospel is not a money making proposition, but there has been and still is a great deal of joy and happiness in such a life. God intended it to be so. Jesus did not call me, nor any other preacher to a life of grinding poverty, but to a life of happy service.

An aged and nearly helpless man lay dying on a bed at the poor farm. Yet he claimed to be a millionaire. When he was asked as to the nature and source of his wealth he held up a thumb stained and well worn copy of the Bible and said, "I have here a promisory note from Almighty God to a beautiful home in heaven. God always keeps his promises and so I am a millionaire." Can you find any fault with his reasoning? I can't. Did not Jesus say, "In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you that where I am there ye may be also." John 14:2. And so we sing:

"There is a home eternal, beautiful and fair;  
Where sweet joys supernal never are dimmed by night,  
White robed angels are singing ever around that white throne,  
When oh when shall I see thee ever around that bright  
Beautiful, beautiful home."

That is the Christian's hope, "For we live in hope of eternal life which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" Titus 1:2. A description of that home is

revealed in Revelations, Chapter 21. First of all, there will be no death there, for life will be eternal. There will be no sin, for the devil, the instigator of all sin will have been eternally banished, suffering the flames of eternal fire. There will be no sorrow nor crying, for all the things that grieve us here will have been eternally removed. We'll never grow old and we will be forever freed from this miserable body of flesh. The Lord said, "Old things are passed away. . . behold all things are become new." What a wonderful Saviour he is! He suffered inexpressively on Calvary's tree all because of his wonderful love for us, and that love can never die! Throughout the eternal ages of eternity his love and his divine love will ever be ours to enjoy. Dear reader why should you not give to Him the fullest affection of your heart? *He loves you!* and his poverty was all for the purpose of making you rich. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor that we through his poverty might be rich!" Amen!

### THE WORK OF CHRIST

"If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him." John 10:37-38.

In Mark 7:37, the statement is made by the people, "He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak." In John 21:25 we have this statement, "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen"

The public life of Christ covers only about three and a half years, and from the time he first began to preach and teach until the hour of his death, Jesus worked for the blessing of afflicted mankind. Never once did he turn away from the cry of an afflicted person, but worked miraculously the divine power of God.

His great work did not begin at Cana of Gallilee where he

turned the water into wine. It began with the creation of the world — Col. 1:16, where it is clearly stated that Christ was the creator of the entire world — a most tremendous act that is far beyond the comprehension of all mankind. Astronomers claim that in the Milky Way there are at least 30 billion stars and planets, and that is only a small part of the steller universe. Only God could count the stars and planets. Then Jesus worked the simple act of turning the water into wine, which deed was followed by the healing of Peter's mother-in-law and then at each stop he made, all the sick and afflicted were healed. There is not one single case of failure on the part of Jesus to heal an afflicted person. Soon his fame as a healer became so great that thousands came to him for healing. Not once does Jesus turn down an appeal from one that was afflicted. Once a leper came to him pleading and said, "Lord, if thou wilt thou can'st make me clean." He was certain of the Lord's ability to heal, but was in doubt of his willingness to heal. The sympathetic Christ could never turn away from a suffering person, and so he quickly stated, "I will; be thou clean," and the poor leper was immediately cured of his loathsome disease. It is most definitely stated, of all the afflicted; "He healed them all." Matt. 12:15. All of this goes to show the great love and compassion Jesus had for all the afflicted ones. His great heart is always touched by any burden of illness; and this applied even to his enemies, for shortly before his death he healed the ear of one of the mob, who came to capture him. All of this shows what a wonderful man Jesus was. It made no difference who needed his healing power, Jesus was quick to heal all who came to him.

One particular case has always impressed me. A man born blind attracted the attention of Jesus. Jesus used a different method in this case. He spit on the ground, mixed clay with the spit, and annointed the eyes of the blind man and told him, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam." The man went to the pool, washed his face and came seeing. His parents and the Pharisees had quite a discussion in regard to the case. Because it was a sabbath day, the Pharisees sought to persecute Christ. They declared he could not be the proper kind of a man

because he healed on the Sabbath. The healed man declared, "If this man were not from God he could do nothing." John 9:33. And to that statement all right thinking people must agree. Healing power could come only from God. Once when Christ's enemies were persecuting him, Jesus said unto them, "Many good works have I shown you from my Father. For which of these works do you stone me?" Their excuse was not in regard to any of his works but because of his blasphemy. Jesus's defense was "The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me." An indisputable claim indeed. The divine power he showed was his proof that God was in him. We may well ask, "If he was not the Son of God, whose Son was he?" And that question is pertinent today. If Jesus is the Son of God what are you going to do with him. Pilate asked his hateful enemies, "What then shall I do with Jesus?" Their only cry was "Crucify him. Crucify him." Crucify the man who wrought such wonderful miracles of healing to the sick and the afflicted? God Forbid.

But healing the sick was not the only work of Christ. In prophecy it was predicted, "He healeth the broken in heart and bindeth up their wounds." Psalms 147:3. Isaiah 61:1 says, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath annointed me to preach the good tiding to the meek, he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." *To bind up the broken hearted.* Could anything be more wonderful than that? Remember Jesus's message to the bereaved sister Martha and Mary, "Thy brother shall rise again." Four days before they with broken hearts had laid their beloved brother in the grave. Now Jesus is telling them Lazarus shall rise again. And in a few moments at the command of Jesus the grave opened and Lazarus stood alive before them, and the tears of sorrow were turned to tears of happiness to have their beloved brother restored to them. And this is only one incident in Jesus's life that shows the deep sympathy Jesus had for all grieving humanity. In Luke the 4th chapter we learn that Jesus once quoted the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1 where mention is made of what the Messiah would accomplish, and one thing in particular is he

would "heal the broken hearted," and that work is still being accomplished today. Many thousands who suffer grief for different reasons find comfort and consolations in the words and promises of our Lord. Broken homes, broken promises, disappointments in life's plans and many such things make life at times unbearable, but Christ can and does give to weeping humanity the comfort of an understanding Friend, who knows all about our sorrows and our troubles. It is just this that endears Christ to countless thousands who learn of his sympathy and love. Is this not the greatest of his work? It has been said, "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal." Truly he spoke truthfully when he said, "The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me."

During his earthly sojourn he walked upon the waters of Gallilee, he stilled the tempest, he raised the dead, healed the lepers, gave sight to the blind, fed great multitudes, and comforted the sorrowing, all through love for stricken and disturbed humanity, and the deeds he performed all declare with the thunder tones of God, "This is the Son of God." And, dear reader, we are pleading with you that this great miracle worker may be able to find lodgement in your heart to the saving of your soul. He loves you and if you accept Him as a Saviour and Redeemer, the "Peace of God that passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ." Philippians 4:7.

## THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

"But if we walk in the light, as he (Christ) is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7.

The Bible is a bloody book! Not that it is stained with blood, but it deals with the question of blood. When Cain and Abel offered their sacrifices to the Lord, he rejected Cain's sacrifice because it did not require the shedding of blood. This we know because we are told that Abel offered his sacrifice "by faith" (Heb. 11:4) and inasmuch as faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17), Abraham and all the Old Testament worthies made their offerings to

God upon altars of stones anywhere they desired. But under the Jewish law their offerings were restricted to the Altar before the tabernacle. And every sacrifice except the meat offering, required the shedding of blood, for "without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins," Lev. 17:11, Heb. 9:22.

The value of blood was taught long before scientists discovered the value and purpose of blood. Immediately after the Flood, the Lord told men that they could eat the flesh of animals, except that they were not to eat the blood. "But the flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof shall ye not eat." Gen. 9:4. Under the Jewish law the same restrictions are found, Lev. 17:10-14, "And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, no soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood. And whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, which hunteth and catcheth any beast or fowl that may be eaten: he shall even pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust. For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore, I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off." The above is very plain, and we find that this same law is carried over into the law of Christ. In Acts 15th chapter, when the great conference was held in Jerusalem in regard to circumcision they repudiated the demands of the Jewish Christians, but did bind other things.

Let us read Acts 15:20 "But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood." Anything that is strangled has not been bled, hence to eat of

it requires that we eat the blood with the flesh. And so Christians are restrained from eating blood because to us blood is more important than ever.

It is a well known fact that pretended scientists, and medical men for years practiced bleeding and thereby murdered thousands of people. History tells us that George Washington was murdered in ignorance in regard to the value of blood. He was caught in a rainstorm and contracted a heavy cold that may have developed into pneumonia. The doctor bled him and that weakened him, instead of curing him. If the doctor has been acquainted with the Bible that teaches us of the value of blood, that it is the life of the flesh, General Washington might have lived many years longer than he did. Today we use blood transfusions and thousands of lives are thereby saved. Truly it is the blood of Christ that saves us from an eternity of suffering. That blood shed on Calvary has power now to cleanse every sinful soul from the pollutions of sin, and it can and does transform characters that are subject to death, by reason of sin.

Let us now consider the nature of Jesus blood. Do not forget that the blood shed on Calvary was human blood. He was still in a human body, and the blood flowed from the spear point in his side; was just as human as the blood that now flows in your veins. And that means suffering of a nature that was intense beyond description. His was a bloody death! The shedding of that blood took his life, but it gives life to us. Someone has asked the question, "*If Jesus has not died?*" It would be difficult indeed to adequately answer that question. It is sufficient to state that of the millions that have died since Christ expired on the cross, they all would have died "without God and without hope in the world." But Jesus died and so the sinful world of mankind can be saved.

Second, *That blood was a brother's blood.* We may see blood not knowing its origin and give it little thought, but should it be the blood of a loved one — a relative, the effect of seeing that blood will be much increased. The blood of Jesus is the blood of one that should be dearer than all others besides. He has said "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," Heb. 13:5. And in the midst of all the sorrows and

griefs of life we will always find him closer than any one else if we but look to him for comfort in our sorrows and succor in the time of need. Truly he is the friend of man, and being a friend, he is entitled to our deepest consideration. And that His blood, that was shed should be considered as the most precious thing in the world. We are reminded of the statement the Lord made to Israel while they were still in Egypt. They were told to observe the Passover feast, which required the killing of a lamb. Its blood was to be saved, but was to be daubed on the doorposts of their homes, and the Lord said, "And when I see the blood I will pass over you." Israel was ready to leave the land of slavery and poverty, and one last plague was to be inflicted on Egypt — the slaughter of the first-born. The one thing that would save the firstborn in any house would be the blood over the door. If that was lacking then the angel of death entered and took the firstborn. The blood upon the door was their passport to freedom and a home in the promised land. And so the blood of Christ is our passport to heaven after we are made free from the bondage of sin.

Third: That blood is the proof of God's love for man. Let us quote the most familiar verse in the Bible "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son That whosoever believeth in him might have everlasting life." John 3:16. A world of sinners, doomed by the Lord whose holy laws those sinners had violated, is now offered free salvation. Please understand that God had no obligation to save or redeem man. It was and is His love that prompted him to send his Son to die for man's redemption. And the Son is dwelling in the luxuries of heaven surrounded by the angels of light.

These are not dreams or fanciful ideas but realities. They are the sacred promises of God who is one who cannot lie, and he is not slack concerning his promises but has sworn with an oath that he will keep his word. *It will be pitiful if you will not believe him.*

Fourth: *That blood is atoning blood.* Remember: Christ died that we might live. His death and shed blood is God's one and only way by which man can be saved. The word

atonement means "to make one." Man and God were separated by man's sins. The prophet said "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Isaiah 59:2. Reconciliation must take place before man can be one with God. In other words man's sins must be removed by divine means. Most certainly man cannot remove his own sins. They must be removed by the means God has provided, and the means is the blood of Christ. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;" Eph. 1:7. Inasmuch as the "wages of sin is death," a death must take place before reconciliation is effected; and so in infinite love and mercy Jesus died to atone for your sins. His life's blood was shed that we might be cleansed. "*It is the blood which maketh atonement.*" Lev. 17:17, 11. Only in that blood and by that blood can man obtain redemption from his sins.

"O precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow,

No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus."

And so a ghastly bloody deed became the most precious event of all time and is today the proof of Jesus's and his Father's love and deep concern for our eternal welfare. What a wonderful hope we have! Nothing in all the universe could make life so worth living as to know that heaven awaits all the faithful because our Saviour shed his blood to pay the price of our redemption.

### THE CROSS OF CHRIST

"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." Gal. 6:14.

Of all the emblems in the world with religious significants, the cross of Christ is by far the most numerous. That cross upon which Jesus died, thousands of songs have been written to glorify that cross. And the only sermons ever preached that were worth listening to were in regard to that cross. When some of our astronauts returned from their trip to the moon, President Nixon declared that their feat was the

greatest event in the world since creation. I beg leave to differ with him. The world's greatest event was the crucifixion of Christ. The first landing on the moon was a breathtaking event, but the world was not made better morally nor spiritually by that event; but unnumbered millions of people have been affected morally and spiritually by the story of that cross. From the frozen mountains of Greenland to the burning arid wastes of Australia that story has been told and lives most profoundly affected. The stealing thieves have become honest, the vile have become pure, murderers have ceased their blood letting, the idolators have been influenced to turn to a true and living God, and the giddy, careless ones have been sobered and their lives have obtained a noble purpose. It is hard to find the language that will tell of the wonderful fruits of the Cross. As long as the world shall stand the lives of people who hear that story will be transforming their lives most profoundly. And so great is the story of Calvary that the angels in heaven watch and listen with bated breath as that story unfolds in the hearts of sinful men. Let us now consider some things that cross reveals to man.

First: It reveals our sinfulness. Had man not sinned there would have been no need of the cross. What seemed a simple insignificant act in Eden became a world wide condition that grieved the heart of Almighty God, and he was determined that sinful man would be saved if man would only "Stop, Look and Listen."

No human being has ever lived without becoming tainted with the deceptions of Satan. The inspired Paul wrote, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. To save sinful man it was necessary that the penalty for man's sins should be paid. God greatly desires man's salvation, but he will not save man independent of man's willingness to be saved, and so we have the most wonderful story ever told. God sent his Son into the world to pay the debt man owes to God. He died for our sins according to the scriptures. And that cross shall ever be a testimony of what the Lord has done for us. It is the finger of God pointing to man and saying, "All have sinned." There could be no meaning to the cross unless it was connected with man's

willingness to be saved. The Masons, the Oddfellows and other organizations have their emblems but those emblems have nothing whatever to do with sin. But the cross is meaningless if we forget man's sinfulness. The cross ever stands as a mute testimony of man's need of salvation.

Second: The Cross reveals our worth. It is stated by the Lord in Isaiah 13:12, "I will make a man more precious than fine gold; ever a man than the golden wedge of Ophir." Jesus once asked the great question, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matt. 16:26. An unanswered question. Let the rich man, the politician, or the common wordling, answer. There is no answer. The value of a soul outweighs all the wealth of the world together with its pleasures, its shame and material things.

Man's value is determined by the price paid for his soul. I Peter 1:18, 19, reads: "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

Jesus positively stated, "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." John 14:21. That verse is self explanatory. We learn of our duty to God by listening to Christ, and we are brought into spiritual relationship by obedience to Christ's words.

Third: The Cross reveals to us *the love of God*. The most familiar passage in the entire Bible is John 3:16, 17, "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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. It has truthfully been said that the Bible is God's love letter to man. That book reveals a love that only a few have been able to comprehend. The story of how the great eternal God sent his only begotten Son into the world might be saved from the eternal consequence of sin. Let us understand

first of all that God had no obligations to save man. It was love and love alone that prompted the great gift of love. Everything we have and need, yea all the necessities of life, have been given us by the divine Father. On Mars Hill, Paul affirmed that the Lord has given us, "life, breath and all things." Man is truly surrounded by the great cornucopia of God's bounties; but all these evidences of God's care and love man is generally totally indifferent: But God who is rich in his love and mercy, has been making provisions for man's eternal happiness, and that Cross stands as an imperishable memorial of the greatest love in the world. I John 4:10 it is stated that we should love him because he first loved us. The sending of his beloved Son into the world was and is the greatest act of affection the world has ever known. Women who loved Christ and had ministered unto him, viewed with agonized hearts his sufferings on the cross; but how greater must have been the agony suffered by the divine Father when he saw his holy Son in death on that cruel cross, willingly and gladly dying the just for the unjust that he might reconcile man to God. Truly we should love him because he first loved us. To permit your life to be evilly influenced by Satan who hates you and God is a strange thing. Should we not love him who so devotedly loves us? And the love we are to show for him can be manifested only by obedience to his holy laws. Jesus said, "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me," John 14:21. And in I John 5:3, we find this statement: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." If our actions are motivated by love there will be no hardship in obedience to Christ. The service a mother gives to her helpless child is a very small thing, beautiful as it is, compared with the Love of God. We are reminded of the song:

"Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
And were the skies of parchment made;  
Were every stalk on earth a quill,  
And every man a scribe by trade;  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
Tho' stretched from sky to sky.