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Where Has The Cross Gone?

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Does anyone remember the “Cross”? Do you know what The “Cross” is? Tell me about it? It is noticeably gone from the church I attend. I hesitantly use the words ‘my church’ for I do not believe it is ‘my church’, it is just the church I attend. The music is wonderful and Holy Spirit inviting, the messages are good and correctly stated and the Holy Spirit moves in and during the services; but, I can not call it ‘my church’! I have attended services at this church for several months and have not heard anything about “The Cross” only in the music. Where has it gone? Has it been replaced with wealth and money teachings? My Lord Jesus Christ did not die on the ‘money tree’, He died on the Old Rugged Cross. He died, beaten with His flesh hanging from His bones, He died with the poor and He died exalting His enemies with the prayer of forgiveness on His tongue and not always degrading them. He died for you and me, so that we may have a chance to ask God for forgiveness of our sins. He did not die with a silver spoon in His mouth and a three piece suit on, He died naked and humiliated by the world for what His beliefs were and what He was told to do by His Father in heaven. If man does what the Father tells him to do today; man, is despised of by man, taunted by man, degraded by man, chastised by man, ridiculed by man and not believed by man as was Jesus when He hung from “The Cross”, not the ‘money tree’!

Jesus died for us in a way that all mankind can and may enjoy His presence later in heaven. If He had died with ‘the money tree’ paying His way, mankind’s rich and famous only, would profit from His death. Jesus died from “The Cross” so all mankind may enter into His kingdom. He died for the lowly, poor, naked, the rich and the famous for their right to enter into His kingdom. And He gave man his choice whether he wants to follow Him into His heaven or not. ***“Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny***

himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” Matthew 16:24. Deny himself? Jesus says, “... *If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow Me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said unto His disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.*” Matthew 19:21 through 24.

You see Jesus gave man his right to enter heaven; but, it is his right only, if he follows the Lord Jesus Christ in his quest for the kingdom of heaven. Jesus wants man humbled before Him, a rich man will never humble himself for anything, nor will he give it all away just to go with Jesus to heaven. “*When His disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. Then answered Peter and said unto Him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed Thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.*” Matthew 19:25 through 30.

This young rich man ask Jesus, “... *Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?*” Matthew 19:16. Jesus said if you want to enter into heaven, then it is simple, keep My commandments. The young rich man ask, which one? Jesus answered, “... *Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*” Matthew 19:18 and 19. The young rich man said, I have done all these things already, I have lived my life this way, forever! What else do I need to do? Jesus answered this young rich man and said, “... *If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow Me.*” Matthew 19:21. Remember the eye of the needle and the camel? Well, when the young rich man heard this from Jesus, “... *he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.*” Matthew 19:22. He could not sell all his possessions and give it to the poor, for he liked what he had, even though

he liked Jesus also and wanted more from Him, he could not give up his wealth and live with the poor. The wealthy will not enter into the kingdom of heaven, they can't, they must give up too much.

The poor, do they have an inside track to heaven? No, but they know what it is to be humble. In Jesus' teachings we learn, ***“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”*** Matthew 5:3 through 9.

The cross, remember the cross? The rich did not inherit the kingdom of heaven. The 'money tree' was not used in Jesus' crucifixion. He was not whipped with gold or silver baubles. He was not chauffeured to Golgotha. His butler did not carry His cross up the Via Dolorosa. His double was not hung on the cross. It was not all just allegory. It was not flesh or blood look a likes that fell from Him hanging on the cross as He hung there. It was not length of time enhanced that He hung from the cross. It was not tears of joy that His mother and His Father (God) shed for their Son. It was not some make believe story told to children to scare them into God's submission. It was not make believe! Jesus was beaten unmercifully with bone and shards of iron and rock to mutilate His body. He was pierced in the side with a spear after He had died just to see if He was dead. It was no fake earthquake when He died and it was a real temple veil that was torn in half. Jesus was beaten, stabbed, humiliated and died for all of mankind that believes in Him, for those that believe without a smidgeon of unbelief or doubt that what the Holy Bible says is just exactly how it was. Words, words, and more words are just words when there is no belief in them. Apostle Paul said ***“For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the Gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”*** 1st Corinthians 1:17 and 18.

“Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, there came unto Him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on His head, as He sat at meat. But when His disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. When Jesus understood

it, He said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? For she hath wrought a good work upon Me. For ye have the poor always with you; but Me ye have not always. For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this Gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.” Matthew 26:6 through 13. God was preparing Jesus for all the pain and humiliation waiting Him tomorrow: Judas’ betrayal of Jesus with a kiss, Peter denying Him three times before the rooster crowed, the beatings and chastisement of all of His fellow Jews and all of those He had preached to in the temple accusing Him of blasphemy. All of this was God’s plan for Jesus to save the world, the ones who want to be saved, those that do not think the preaching of the cross is foolishness and what must be preached today is money, wealth and riches. Today’s world rotates around money, wealth and riches, man cannot be happy or cannot survive without them, man thinks. I hear it everywhere I go. It is preached behind most pulpits, when in fact “The Cross” is what should be preached. But, it is lost, it is of no avail, it is foolishness.

Jesus died, He was beaten and hung from that old rugged cross as the song goes. He did not preach to man about money, wealth and riches, He preached to man about his salvation of the lost and to the love of man for one another. He was ministering to everyone that has an ear open to hear what so saith the Lord. Man does not have to be open minded about today’s preachings, as man is told to be. **“The Cross” is the preaching** and the only preaching man needs to be taught. Without “The Cross” man would not be able to preach anywhere about anything except what Satan is preaching. And where can you hear Satan preaching today?

My Lord, my Jesus and my God died for me so that I may have a chance to the kingdom of heaven. He did not die for me to be rich or wealthy. He gave me a chance to live. I will follow “The Cross” and it’s preaching everywhere and not the dollar preaching, for Jesus will take care of all my needs, if I pick up my cross daily and follow Him.

Is the church I am now attending preaching “The Cross”? The music is great and Spirit inspired, the Words spoken are true and the Spirit of God is there. For me, **“The Cross”, is my power!**

A cross disciple,
Pastor Eddie