

My Little Cross

The cross was used as an instrument of death, then and now. It was either a plain vertical stake to which the victim was fastened, with the hands and feet tied or nailed above the head, or such a stake provided a crossbar to which the victim was fastened with the arms outstretched.

Today we lift our hands above our heads or raise our arms out and up to form a cross figure. We do this to die to the fleshly man, to live for Jesus and to submit.

In pre-Christian times, that is before Christ, the cross' emblem had been clearly investigated as a well known heathen sign. Around 400 B.C. the cross started by the Romans as a form of a death penalty and was known as a crucifixion, another form of a horrible, brutal and painful death man inflicted and still inflicts upon other man. This is a horrible death, a death of suffocation.

As God does so well, He turned an evil thing into His glory. He has made the emblem of a cross an impressionable, unforgettable and an emotional emblem of life, eternal life, for believers. In Christian times the cross, from itself being the most vile and repulsive of objects, became in the minds of believers the symbol of all that is Holy and precious. As Christ is the 'power of God and the wisdom of God' unto salvation, it is but natural that those who experience the power of salvation should glory in the cross. I proudly wear and display this undisputable emblem of everything which stands for righteousness and goodness. **AMEN!**

Jesus Christ suffered and died for you and I on that cross, the most vile and repulsive of objects; God allowed this to happen so it would be an undisputable emblem of all that is Holy and righteous. ***“And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand: and they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon Him, and took the reed, and smote Him on the head. And after that they had mocked Him, they took the robe off of Him, and put His own raiment on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.”*** Matthew 27:29-31.

Submit, obey Him and answer His call, it is not going to ring forever. Answer, ***“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”*** Ephesians 4:23, 24. See the reason of the cross, feel the pain and love Jesus had at the same time for you and I. Do not be one of many that hear and see the cross, but do not feel the love and power it can bestow upon them. ***“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”*** 1 Corinthians 1:18. Don't perish foolishly, you have a choice to make. The scriptures tell us what will happen to you and me if we do not follow and obey God. I want to be saved and have the power of God to fight my fights against Satan and his devils for me. You will lose if you do not have the power of God behind you. Jesus said in Matthew 10:38, ***“And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me.”***

Do you want to be worthy and have the power you can have just for the asking? Then let Jesus into your life “ ... *and that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:*” Ephesians 2:16. Let Jesus, by the cross, reconcile you and God again in one body as God made man in the beginning, to be a companion, as **ADAM**.

John the Baptist saw Jesus, who He really was, upon baptizing Him, when he said, “*The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*” John 1:29. Then the Lamb fell in John 3:16-18 when we read, “*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. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*” **DO YOU BELIEVE?**

Let me tell you about a man that I know real well and that I am very close to. I know him almost as well as God knows him; but, God still knows him better! About thirty-five to thirty-six years ago this man had surgery for the removal of plantar warts on the side of his foot. Just plain ole warts which grow from a fungus I think. The surgery was a success and this man walked around on crutches to try to get through his every day job duties. Without any thought of any more of these warts on his foot, he forgot about them. **Until**, they started growing back and were getting bigger and bigger. This man was not a regular church, he was raised this way. But after marriage and settling down some, he started going to church. Through God’s saving grace and the call from God, this man was baptized. Not paying any attention to his foot where the warts were until he got home; **THE WARTS WERE GONE!!! PRAISE GOD!** Well, his podiatrist, who was getting ready for surgery again, didn’t have anything to say. No need for surgery! And until this day, this man has never been bothered by these warts again. This, the healing power of God!

Well, as all backslidden Christians, not going to church became easier and easier. This man had just some of God; that’s all he said he needed.

During this man’s early childhood, the statement came up more than once, that every time he would fall into a pile of manure, he would come up smelling like roses. This man still did not feel God’s hands upon his shoulders.

Then the military called him, greetings, you have been officially drafted into the U. S. Army, report such and such This man had not been married long and leaving his new bride was hard. Just as God would have it, this man’s duty fort was just 236 miles from his home. **PRAISE GOD!**

But still, this man did not know God still had His hands upon his shoulders. After basic training and additional training to become proficient at his job, he was assigned a home fort. Somewhere stationed, normally not the same as your basic training fort. So God, at what He does best, put his assigned home fort, you guessed it, still 236 miles from home and his bride. But still he did not acknowledge God and give Him the credit and praises. He said, he knew there was a God, and that is all he wanted, that's all he needed. Two hundred thirty-six miles from home, home every weekend! A brand new 1967 Ford Mustang after only 9 months had already 36,000 miles on it. He went home on Fridays after work at 5:00 pm and left at 1:30 or 2:00 am on Mondays, to get back in time to start work, every Monday morning. The hand of God was still upon this man's shoulders. He relates an event, which still today, is very vivid to him. Going around a small town about half way to his fort one Monday morning, there was a new overpass which was opened with large concrete pillars in the median of the highway supporting this bridge. This man recalls that he felt a bump and his car shook kind of funny. This **WOKE** him up to his surprise; he was about fifty feet from this concrete pillar and was already on the median heading head on into this pillar. This bump and shake was his car, jumping the curb. He had gone to sleep at the wheel. He could have gone off the road on the shoulder and there would not have been a bump and a shake to wake him up, but God's hands, once again, were upon his shoulders and guided his car up on the curb to wake him up. This man does not sleep at the wheel any more! But still, this man did not see God's grace and thank Him and praise Him!

This man's military duty was during the time of the Viet Nam conflict. With a year left of his duty, his wife and six week old son were coming up to see him one weekend with another friend. They had a blow out on the right front tire and flipped and wrecked. The wreck **KILLED HIS WIFE, TWICE**, but God brought her back to life twice on the operating table. His child was thrown in the back floor board of the car while he was still in his basinet. The back seat then flew up and covered him in his basinet. He suffered only a herniated naval and it was surgically repaired. This man, still only knew God, and still no praise and worship.

Six months later, after having all training and shots for Viet Nam, his orders came down. **DEFERMENT?!** His wife's doctor had applied for a medical deferment for this soldier unbeknown to him. **GOD'S SAVING GRACE!** His whole squadron shipped out to Nam. This man had lived with these men for eighteen months and had gotten to be close friends with quite a few of them. Men from California, Illinois and Georgia. Later this man, through scuttlebutt, found out that his friends and squadron were ambushed on a road convoy and suffered 80% casualties. **SAVED BY GRACE!** ***"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."*** Ephesians 2:8,9. Surely it was not from this man's works. Still, no praise and worship. He still didn't need any more of God.

You see, what this man has gone through, I can see today, has happened to a lot of God's children. They have been lied to, by Satan. They have been told they didn't need to go to church, as this man was told. He said he didn't like the hypocrites in church and didn't have to be around them. Do not be a hypocrite yourself and set yourself higher than you think you are. You know this is what you are doing! All the children of God have sinned and will sin. We all need each other to just get through. This man let Satan lie to him for **THIRTY YEARS**; well, I am getting ahead of my story. Still, this man said he did not need church. He could worship at home. **YOU CAN'T!**

After military discharge, and landing a job with an oil company, this man increased in knowledge and wisdom and was promoted to a supervisory position. He was making a good salary and had fathered a daughter by this time. Making more meant just spending more money. Credit cards were no problem, until they were all maxed out and it came time to borrow more money to catch up on what was past due and to relieve the phone calls from bill collectors. This whole time, this man still, did not acknowledge God. Times became harder and harder. Somehow, he said, he got out of this mess also. God still had His hands upon this man's shoulders and he didn't even realize what was happening. **STILL!**

After years of struggling with bills and creditors and not enjoying his job any longer; not liking the politics and hypocrites some were playing, this man just retired, drew his retirement bonus, paid bills and went into his own business venture. He bought another business and tried it on his own; still, without God as his guide and pilot.

During this time, his children grew up and married and started their own lives. Again the Lord gave this man wisdom and knowledge. He had never been around this type of work before. He was going from a chair computer job to a very physical and manual labor job. No pushing buttons to get the job done, no more calling someone on the radio to do this or that. No, he had it all on his shoulders to do; still, not knowing that God's hands were still upon his shoulders. With long hours and knowledge and wisdom that came from somewhere, this business more than 2 and ½ times increased in the first year. Things started happening and more and more hours he had to keep his business open, he thought! Then it came, although he did not go to church, he still held Sundays just for himself, taping movies, mowing the grass and just working at home! It came to pass, **HE OPENED HIS BUSINESS ON SUNDAYS** and kept his business opened around the clock on the weekends from 7:00 am Friday mornings to 7:00 pm Sunday evening. And he stayed at his business all these hours every weekend. He needed the extra money. **DID HE?**

He still hadn't learned about God in all these years of escapades, so God went another step this time. After 2 and ½ years of successful business and twenty-two years of marriage, his wife started missing her husband, and couldn't get him to see things coming. Another man, a worldly man, paid her some attention, she liked it, why wouldn't she? This didn't amount to anything except this man totally, finally lost it.

Suicide played a role in this drama. It was contemplated by him and was on the verge of success. **SATAN WILL TRY ANYTHING TO TAKE YOUR LIFE**, mentally, spiritually or physically. This man had a loving and caring wife to stand by him and get him through these times. You see, she needed her husband and stood behind him and helped him when it was needed. He was admitted to a locked unit in a mental health hospital for help. He didn't seek God for his help, he still looked first of all to himself for help, but when he couldn't help himself any longer, **HE BROKE!** He was locked up for three days and three nights. Does this sound familiar Saints?! Well, God still had His hands upon this man's shoulders, still unbeknown to him. God healed him over this period of time and he was released into the custody of his wife.

He sold his business, lost money and did not fret about it. God took that away also. He went three months before he found another job. With no money coming in and all of his retirement bonus gone and lost in businesses, the air conditioning couldn't run in a mobile home in south Texas in May, June or July. It was hot! Food was scarce, but he and his wife were happy again, just the two of them. God also gave them their love back again, to each other. Still, no worship or praise. Aren't we serving a patient God? One who loves us enough to do anything for you without even a thank you? He loves you this much, true, but He wants and expects your obedience and your praises. Are your trials becoming as this man's was? Are they getting worse and worse and getting longer in length of time? God is trying to tell you something, listen to Him!

There was word that a job was open close to home and he knew how to do this job. He applied, but the job was already filled and promised to another man. But he was told when something came open they would call; well, we have all heard that line before. **YOU KNOW WHAT**, this other man quit after working only two hours, the very next day. Making five times less money than he was making as a supervisor with the oil company, and about four times less than when he owned his on businesses, he said it did not matter anymore, he was happy. It was close to home and with just his wife and himself, they didn't need much. Has God ever worked a miracle in him? It was hard, dirty and hot work; but, he was happy. Do you think God had a little something to do with this? I kind of do! This was six years ago, and he still works there, close to home.

A year after he started to work there, another man was hired to work with him, he was Christian man. They became friends and started visiting each other. The man that knew God started telling him about Jesus and talking to him about God. He listened patiently and didn't want to hurt this man's feelings, so he promised him he would come to church. These promises went on for about a year, at least 52 promises. Finally, after the first step by his wife, he went to church, then again and again. This man hasn't missed a service in three years that wasn't church related. He knows that all this time and all these years, that God had His hands upon his shoulders, teaching and getting him ready to do what God has called him to do!

This is a true and factual tale of events which have happened in the life of **ME!** You are reading about a God kept, God's creation, fulfilling a typical day in the life of the Lord. Sometimes it takes years for God to get man where God wants him. In my case, **THIRTY YEARS!** I now praise and worship God and give Him all the glory! **PRAISE BE TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!!**

I am still growing in wisdom and knowledge, we all continue to grow. No one is where God is when it comes to wisdom, not even was Solomon, with all his wisdom. I'm still growing, but I have His light now, **JESUS**, as my Guide and Teacher. We never become too big or too old to stop learning.

God has given me these letters to write, to mail to you, for you to read. God has a plan and it is just about finished for this part. It is time to listen to God calling you. Open up your deaf ears as I had to do; obey and receive God's saving grace. We all need God in our lives. That's why God made us anyway. We need to know God and His love, His tender loving hands upon your shoulders. He will always carry you through the fire as He did me. He will never leave you there alone; in His ship, always, the anchor holds.

For me now, salvation is easy. Through these letters I pray you find my God and let Him be your God also. It is so simple to do, just pray and call upon His name. 2 Chronicles 7:14 reads, *"If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."* *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* Romans 10:9,10.

Now receive Jesus and have all of God's healing virtue upon you. Let Him bring you out of your darkness, into the light of Jesus. *"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the Light of this world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of life."* John 8:12. Let Jesus be your light, your guide in this dark world. Satan is the ruler of darkness. Let Jesus be your torch in these last days, to guide you to heaven. Let these words be as a flint and spark and light your torch for the rest of your life, eternal life. Seek your God and obey – submit! These words are truly Words of a Witness.

The little cross I carry in my pocket and the one I proudly wear is my reminder and visual reference for you, that I will serve my God and that you need to also. Jesus died for me! Did He die for you, also?

Your support is always welcome to this Ministry; but, your soul is why this letter has been written!

Words of a Witness Ministries
Pastor Eddie Kelso

This letter was written ten years ago, it still is a reality, and it is still relevant and is still in affect today. The changes are minor in retrospect: the job has changed a couple of times and the living location has changed three or four times; but, the vision and goal of this Ministry still remain the same and are becoming closer and closer to fruition.

Between then and now, we can add to it: a three year faith walk with God, further teachings and learning's, hard times and good times, things bought and plans put into motion, all getting to God's plan He started around 6000 years ago with this dispensation of time. Nothing has happened without God's knowledge and Him doing it or allowing it to happen. What we make of it is of our own free will, with or without the benefit of God's guidance and leading.

My wife, Marie, and I are both ordained ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, ministering now wherever the needs are. This December will be our fortieth wedding anniversary. We have our two children and their spouses now and have four grandchildren and love them all very much.

As we live our lives in view of the visions God has given us, we are still, very much so, living God's plans as words of a witness and watching in awe wordsofawitness.org come to pass.

Pastor Eddie Kelso