



TRUE LIGHT

Illuminating the Truth

April 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 EDITORIAL

When the Government Defines Hate

Serin Toms

04

The Priceless Treasure:
The Joy of Christ

Pr. Sachin Mathew

06

Paul's Belt: A Mark of Obedience

Evg. Simjan Cheeran

07

മാനസാന്തരപ്പെടുക

ബഞ്ചമിൻ ഇടക്കര

09

Know Your Purpose

Reena Reji

11

Good News - An Eternal Home
Awaits You

Mary Sweetie Gomez

12

Strategic Way to Victory

Prakash V Mathew

13

Who do You Truly Prioritize?

Dinu Elizabeth Arun

14

Stop Seeking Validation from This
Imperfect World

Ruth Rachel Reji

15

The Embrace of the Cross

Philo John Philip





Serin Toms



WHEN THE GOVERNMENT DEFINES HATE

On March 25, 2026, the Canadian House of Commons passed Bill C-9, the Combatting Hate Act, by a vote of 186 to 137. The legislation now moves to the Senate, where it will undergo further debate and possible amendment. For many Canadians—particularly people of faith—this is not a distant political development. It raises important questions about freedom of expression, religious liberty, and the role of faith in public life.

This is not a partisan discussion. Rather, it is a reflection on principles that matter deeply to the church: the freedom to teach Scripture, the responsibility to uphold truth, and the call to serve society with both conviction and compassion.

Understanding Bill C-9:

Bill C-9 was introduced in September 2025 with the stated goal of addressing rising hate-motivated incidents, including attacks on places of worship. These concerns are real and serious, and they deserve thoughtful and effective responses.

The bill proposes several key changes:

It introduces a new hate crime offence tied to motivations based on protected characteristics such as race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation. It prohibits the public display of recognized hate symbols.

It removes the “good faith religious defence” from Section 319(3)(b) of the Criminal Code.

It is this third change that has prompted significant discussion.

The Question of Religious Expression:

For many years, Section 319(3)(b) provided protection for individuals expressing sincerely held religious beliefs in good faith. Its removal has raised concerns among some faith communities about how religious teaching may be interpreted under the law moving forward.

Canada’s legal system, including the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, continues to protect freedom of religion and expression. At the same time, the evolving legal landscape invites careful consideration of how these freedoms are understood and applied in practice.

The Church’s Response:

The church’s position must remain clear and consistent.

We reject hatred, discrimination, and violence in all forms.

We affirm the dignity and worth of every person.

We are called to love our neighbours while remaining faithful to our beliefs.

Scripture reminds us of both truth and grace. As Acts 5:29 says, “We must obey God rather than human beings,” while Genesis 1:27 affirms that every person is created in God’s image.

Holding these truths together requires wisdom, humility, and courage.

Moving Forward:

This moment calls for thoughtful engagement rather than fear. As the bill proceeds through the Senate, there is space for dialogue, reflection, and participation in the democratic process.

For believers, the response begins with prayer:

-Pray for wisdom for Canada’s leaders.

-Pray for peace and unity in communities.

-Pray for the church to reflect both truth and love in its witness.

The church has always lived in changing cultural and legal environments. Its mission remains unchanged: to be a light in the world, grounded in faith, expressed through love, and guided by wisdom.

THE PRICELESS *Treasure* THE JOY OF *Christ*

Matthew 13:44–46

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

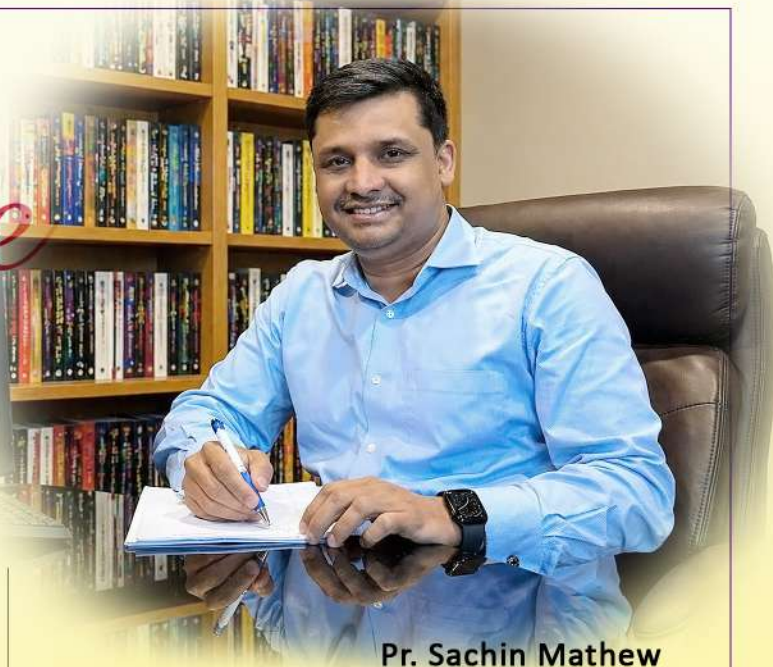
Some discoveries re-order everything. One moment, you are busy with ordinary life; the next, you have seen something so beautiful that the rest of your priorities quietly shift. Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like that—like finding treasure, like finding the one pearl that makes every other purchase look small.

Today, ask God to help you see Christ again—not as an add-on to life, but as the greatest treasure, the truest joy, and the safest refuge.

1) The Discovery: Christ meets us where we are

In the first picture, a man is not hunting for treasure—he simply finds it. In the second, a merchant has been searching for years, and at last his longing is answered. Jesus gently tells us that He draws people in different ways: sometimes by surprise, sometimes through a long season of seeking.

Some learn His voice early, like Samuel (1 Samuel 3:10). Others arrive after years of questions, like the Ethiopian official who was reading, wondering, and then believed (Acts 8:26-39). Some meet Him in crisis, like the thief on the cross (Luke 23:42-43). Some are brought by a friend, like Peter through Andrew (John 1:40-42). However your story reads, it is not an accident—it is grace.



Pr. Sachin Mathew

And heaven rejoices when a sinner repents (Luke 15:7). If your heart is turning toward Christ—even quietly—that turning is a miracle worth celebrating.

2) The Recognition: God opens our eyes to Christ's worth

Both men knew what they were looking at. The worker recognized real treasure. The merchant—trained by years of evaluating pearls—knew this one was beyond comparison. In the same way, when you begin to see Jesus as precious, something holy is happening inside you.

When Peter confessed, “You are the Christ,” Jesus told him that this was revealed by the Father (Matthew 16:16-17). If you have come to treasure Christ - if His name feels weighty and sweet to you - thank God for opened eyes.

“God made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6). This is why devotion begins with prayer: “Taste and see that the LORD is good” (Psalm 34:8). Ask Him to make Christ vivid again - more real than fear, more solid than distraction.

3) The Response: Joy makes surrender possible

Notice the motive: “in his joy.” The man does not sell everything with clenched teeth; he lets go with open hands because he has found something better. The gospel does not invite you into a grim trade - it invites you into a greater delight.



Paul says it plainly: "I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:7-8). This joy is not shallow optimism; it is strength for real days—"the joy of the LORD is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).

Even Jesus endured the cross "for the joy set before him" (Hebrews 12:2). When you feel the cost of obedience, look again at Him-crucified and risen-and ask for the joy that carries you forward.

4) The Exchange: what we "give up" is not payment-it is release

Yes, both men "sold everything," but Jesus is not teaching that you can buy salvation. The kingdom is God's gift; Christ is received by faith. The "selling" pictures what faith does when it finally sees true value: it releases lesser loves to lay hold of the greater One.

Jesus promises that nothing entrusted to Him is wasted: those who leave what must be left for His sake receive more than they imagined, and "in the age to come eternal life" (Mark 10:29-30). In losing your life for His sake, you find it (Matthew 10:39).

5) The Invitation: Come to Jesus today

This treasure is offered, not earned. "Come... without money and without cost" (Isaiah 55:1). If you are weary, Jesus' voice is simple and personal: "Come to me... and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28-30).

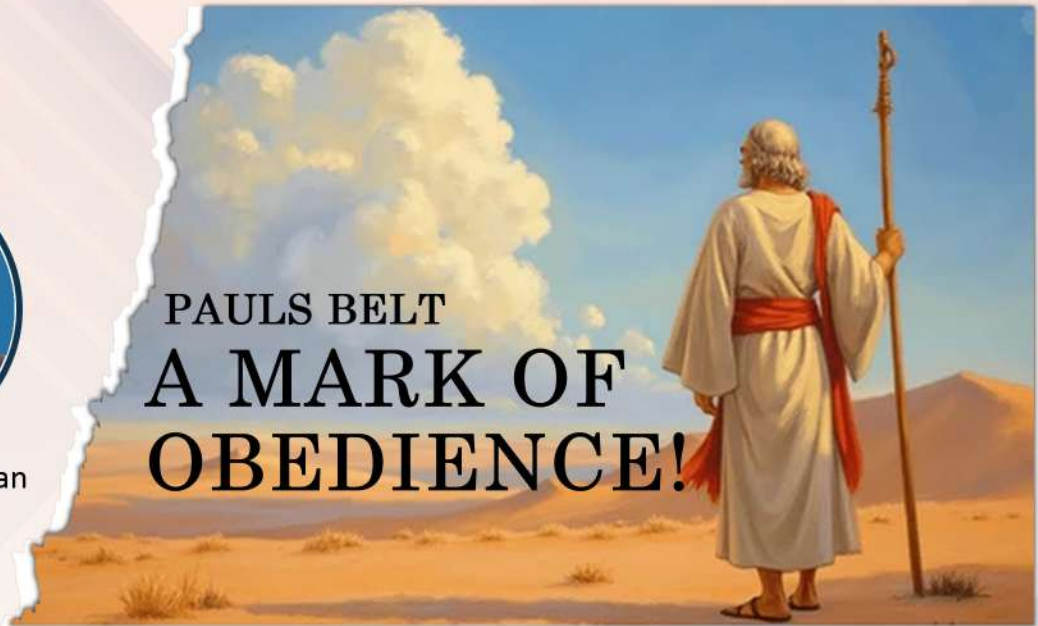
Each morning, read Matthew 13:44-46 slowly, then pray, "Lord Jesus, make my heart glad in You," and choose one small act of obedience that expresses your trust (forgive, confess, give generously, serve quietly, or turn from a repeated sin).



**"THE KINGDOM
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Evg. Simjan Cheeran



Acts 21:11 shows the moment when Agabus used the belt of Paul the Apostle to reveal the suffering awaiting him in Jerusalem. It was a clear warning, but not a command to retreat.

Paul understood something powerful that the Holy Spirit sometimes reveals suffering, not to stop us, but to prepare us.

So he chose obedience over comfort and purpose over safety. As he said, he was ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die for the name of the Lord Jesus.

Hence his belt became:

- A reminder of suffering for his Master
- An assurance of his Master's presence in the journey
- A mark of his identity in Christ as obedience

Later, the Lord confirmed that his journey would continue all the way to Rome.

What a life surrendered to God's will as for him to live was Christ and to die was gain!

What does our belt represent?
A mark of risk avoidance or
a mark of obedience?



And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"
— Acts 21:11 (NASB®)



ബഞ്ചമിൻ ഇടക്കര

മാനസാന്തരപ്പെടുക

സ്നാപക യോഹന്നാന്റെ കാലത്തു മിക്ക ജൂതന്മാരും മശിഹായുടെ വരവിനായി കാത്തിരിക്കുന്നവരായിരുന്നു. റോമൻ ഭരണകർത്താക്കളുടെ ചൂഷണത്തിൽ നിന്ന് തങ്ങളെ മോചിപ്പിച്ച് തങ്ങളുടെ രാഷ്ട്രം പുനഃസ്ഥാപിക്കുന്ന ഒരു മശിഹൈക വ്യക്തിയെ ആയിരുന്നു അവർ പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ റോമക്കാർക്ക് കോഴ കൊടുത്തു പൗരോഹിത്യം സ്വന്തമാക്കിയ സഭ്യകൃവർഗ്ഗം പുനരുത്ഥാനത്തിൽ പോലും വിശ്വസിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ സ്വർഗ്ഗീയ പിതാവിന്റെ ആലയത്തെ കള്ളന്മാരുടെ ഗുഹയാക്കി തീർത്ത ഈ പുരോഹിതവർഗ്ഗമായിരുന്നു അവരുടെ മാർഗ്ഗദർശികൾ. അപ്പോഴാണ് 400 വർഷത്തെ നിശ്ശബ്ദകാലഘട്ടത്തെ ഭേദിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് സ്നാപക യോഹന്നാനും യേശു കർത്താവും ഈ ഭൂമിയിലേക്ക് വരുന്നത്.

മത്തായി 3:3ൽ യോഹന്നാൻ സ്നാപകനെ പരിചയപ്പെടുത്തുന്നത്, യെശയ്യാ 40:3ൽ പ്രവചിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു; മരുഭൂമിയിൽ കർത്താവിന്റെ വഴി ഒരുക്കുവിൻ; മരുഭൂമിയിൽ നമ്മുടെ ദൈവത്തിന് ഒരു പെരുവഴി നിർമ്മിക്കുവിൻ എന്നു വിളിച്ചുപറയുന്നവന്റെ ശബ്ദം ആയിട്ടാണ്. മലാഖി 3:1 ലും സമാനമായ ഒരു പ്രവചനം നാം കാണുന്നു: ഇതാ, ഞാൻ എന്റെ ദൂതനെ അയയ്ക്കുന്നു; അവൻ എന്റെ മുമ്പിൽ വഴി ഒരുക്കും.

യോഹന്നാന്റെ ദൗത്യം ജനങ്ങളെ അവരുടെ മശിഹായെ സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ ഒരുക്കുക എന്നതായിരുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളോട് മാനസാന്തരപ്പെടാനുള്ള യോഹന്നാന്റെ ആഹ്വാനം, അവരുടെ മശിഹായെ സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ അവരുടെ മനസ്സ് മാറ്റേണ്ടതുണ്ടെന്ന് പറയുകയായിരുന്നു. അബ്രഹാമിലും , ദൈവം മോശയിലൂടെ യിസ്രായേലിന് നൽകിയ നിയമങ്ങളോടുള്ള ബാഹ്യ അനുസരണവും നിമിത്തം യഹൂദന്മാർ വിചാരിച്ചത് തങ്ങൾ നീതിമാന്മാരാണെന്നും ദൈവരാജ്യത്തിൽ പ്രവേശനം ലഭിക്കുമെന്നുമാണ്. എന്നാൽ മശിഹായെ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നതിന് അവരുടെ സ്വയനീതിയോ, പൈതൃകമോ, പാരമ്പര്യമോ, ആചാരങ്ങളോ പോരാ, പകരം, അവർക്ക് ഒരു യഥാർത്ഥ, ആന്തരിക നീതി വേണമെന്ന് ദൈവം ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടു. അതിനു അവർക്ക് ഒരു രാജാവിനെ മാത്രമല്ല, ഒരു രക്ഷകനെയും

ആവശ്യമായിരുന്നു. നിർഭാഗ്യവശാൽ, അവരിലെ ആത്മീയ ഗർവ്വിന് ആ ആവശ്യം തിരിച്ചറിയാനായില്ല.

ആ ആവശ്യം തിരിച്ചറിയുന്നതിനാണ്, യോഹന്നാനും യേശു കർത്താവും ജനങ്ങൾ 'മാനസാന്തരപ്പെടണമെന്ന് പ്രസംഗിച്ചത്. മാനസാന്തരത്തിന്റെ URGENCY യ്ക്കുള്ള കാരണവും അവർ പറഞ്ഞു: സ്വർഗ്ഗരാജ്യം സമീപിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു 2 ശമുവേൽ 7:16, യെശയ്യാവ് 11:19, സെഖര്യാവ് 8:20,23, 14:9, യിരെമ്യാവ് 3:17, മീഖാ 4:34, വെളിപ്പാട് 19:20 തുടങ്ങിയ ഭാഗങ്ങൾ ഈ ദൈവരാജ്യം ഒരു ദിവസം ഭൂമിയിൽ വരുമെന്ന് പ്രവചിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. യഹൂദന്റെ പ്രത്യാശയാണത്. എന്നാൽ അതിലേക്കു പ്രവേശിക്കണമെങ്കിൽ അവർ മാനസാന്തരപ്പെടണം.

ഹെരോദാവ് യോഹന്നാനെ തടവിലാക്കിയപ്പോഴാണ്, യേശു തന്റെ പരസ്യ ശുശ്രൂഷ ആരംഭിക്കാൻ മുന്നോട്ടുവന്നത്. യോഹന്നാന്റെ ശുശ്രൂഷ അവസാനിച്ചുവെന്ന് മറ്റാരെക്കാളും നന്നായി യേശുവിനറിയാമായിരുന്നു. തുടർന്ന് യേശു പ്രഖ്യാപിച്ചതും യോഹന്നാൻ വിളിച്ചു പറഞ്ഞ അതേ സന്ദേശമായിരുന്നു: 'മാനസാന്തരപ്പെടുവിൻ, സ്വർഗ്ഗരാജ്യം സമീപിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു.' യോഹന്നാൻ പ്രഖ്യാപിച്ചതുപോലെ, മശിഹാ ഇതിനകം വന്നിട്ടും അവനെ സ്വാഗതം ചെയ്യാനോ അവന്റെ രാജ്യത്തിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കാനോ അവരുടെ ഹൃദയങ്ങൾ അപ്പോഴും തയ്യാറായിരുന്നില്ല. യേശുവിന്റെ നാളിൽ രാജ്യം അവരുടെ 'സമീപത്തായിരുന്നു' കാരണം രാജാവായ യേശു അവരുടെ നടുവിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. പക്ഷേ, ദൈവം പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്ന നീതിയുടെ ആവശ്യകത ആളുകൾ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിട്ടില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ, അവർ ഇതുവരെ ദൈവരാജ്യത്തിനായി തയ്യാറായിരുന്നില്ല. യേശു നിക്കോദിമോസിനോട് ഇക്കാര്യം വളരെ വ്യക്തമായി പറയുന്നുണ്ട്: ദൈവരാജ്യം കാണാനും, അതിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കാനും വീണ്ടും ജനിക്കണം. ഒരു അർത്ഥത്തിൽ യേശു അവനോടു പറഞ്ഞതിന്റെ സാരാംശവും 'മാനസാന്തരപ്പെടണം' എന്ന് തന്നെയായിരുന്നു.

വാസ്തവത്തിൽ തിരുവചനത്തിലുടനീളം 'മാനസാന്തരപ്പെടണം' സന്ദേശം സുവിശേഷത്തിന്റെ ആദ്യ വചനമായി

നിലകൊള്ളുന്നത് അതുകൊണ്ടാണ്.
നോക്കിക്കേ:

യോഹന്നാൻ സ്നാനപകർച്ച സന്ദേശത്തിലെ ആദ്യ വചനം (മത്തായി 3:12).

യേശുവിന്റെ സന്ദേശത്തിലെ ആദ്യ വചനം (മത്തായി 4:17 , മർക്കൊസ് 1:1415).

പത്രോസ് ശിഷ്യന്മാരുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിലെ ആദ്യ വചനം (മർക്കൊസ് 6:12).

ഉയിർത്തെഴുന്നേറ്റതിനുശേഷം യേശു തന്റെ ശിഷ്യന്മാർക്ക് നൽകിയ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളിലെ ആദ്യ വചനം (ലൂക്കൊസ് 24:4647).

പത്രോസിന്റെ പ്രസംഗത്തിലെ ആദ്യ പ്രബോധന വചനം (പ്രവൃത്തികൾ 2:38).

പൗലോസിന്റെ ശുശ്രൂഷയിലെ ആദ്യ വചനം (പ്രവൃത്തികൾ 26:1920).

എല്ലാം 'മാനസാന്തരത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ചായിരുന്നു'.

പാപം ചെയ്തതിലുള്ള കുറ്റബോധവും, ദുഃഖവും, കർച്ചിലുമൊക്കെ നല്ലതാണെങ്കിലും, മാനസാന്തരം പ്രാഥമികമായി വികാരത്തിന്റെ കാര്യമല്ല; അല്ലായെങ്കിൽ ഫറവോനും, ശൗൽ രാജാവിനും, യൂദായ്ക്കു മുമ്പായത് മാനസാന്തരമാണെന്നു പറയേണ്ടി വരും. മാനസാന്തരം ഒരു വൈകാരിക വിസ്ഫോടനമല്ല. ദാവീദിനെപ്പോലെ, പത്രോസിനെപ്പോലെ ദൈവത്തിന്റെ കാൽച്ചുവട്ടിൽ തകർന്നും നുറുങ്ങിയുമുള്ള ഹൃദയത്തോടെ വീഴുന്നതാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് യോഹന്നാൻ തന്റെ അടുക്കൽ സ്നാനത്തിനായി വന്ന പരീശന്മാരോടും സദൂക്യരോടും: സർപ്പസന്തതികളെ, മാനസാന്തരത്തിനു യോഗ്യമായ ഫലം കായ്പിൻ എന്ന് പറഞ്ഞത്. യഥാർത്ഥ മാനസാന്തരം ഹൃദയത്തിലെ ദുഃഖം മാത്രമല്ല, അത് നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ ഗതിയെ മാറ്റുന്നതാണ്.

പ്രിയമുള്ളവരേ, യോഹന്നാന്റെയും യേശുവിന്റെയും കാലത്തുള്ളവരോട് മാത്രമല്ല, തിരുവചനത്തിലൂടെ നീളം മുഴങ്ങി കേൾക്കുന്ന ഗൗരവമേറിയ ശബ്ദമാണ് മാനസാന്തരപ്പെടുക എന്നത്. ഏറ്റവും ഒടുവിൽ വെളിപ്പാടു പുസ്തകത്തിലെ എഴുതുകളുടെ ദൂതനോട് കർത്താവ് പറയുന്നതും അത് തന്നെയാണ്. അതിൽ അഞ്ചു സഭകളും മാനസാന്തരപ്പെടേണ്ട അവസ്ഥയിലായിരുന്നു. ആദ്യസ്നേഹം വിട്ടുകളഞ്ഞവരും, വിഗ്രഹാർപ്പിതം തിന്നുന്നവരും, ദുർന്നടപ്പുകാരും, ഇസബേൽ എന്ന സ്ത്രീയെപ്പോലുള്ള കള്ളപ്രവാചകരും, ഉപദേശം കൈക്കൊള്ളാത്തവരും, ജീവനുള്ളവൻ എന്ന പേരുണ്ടെങ്കിലും മരിച്ച വിശ്വാസികളും, നിർഭാഗ്യനും അരിഷ്ടനും ദരിദ്രനും കുരുടനും നഗ്നനും ശിതോഷ്ണവാന്യുമായ ആത്മീയ രോഗികൾ നിറഞ്ഞ സഭയ്ക്ക് മാനസാന്തരം അടിയന്തരമായി വേണമെന്ന് യേശു കർത്താവ് പറഞ്ഞത് ഒന്നാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിന്റെ അവസാന ഘട്ടത്തിലാണ്.

അങ്ങനെയെങ്കിൽ, 21-ാം നൂറ്റാണ്ടിൽ എത്തപ്പെട്ട നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ അവസ്ഥ എന്തായിരിക്കും. യഹൂദന്മാർ വാഗ്ദത്ത മശിഹായെ പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ, വേഗം വരുമെന്ന് പറഞ്ഞ കർത്താവിനെ പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചു കാത്തിരിക്കുകയാണല്ലോ നമ്മൾ. അന്ന് റോമക്കാരാൽ യഹൂദന്മാർ പീഡിതരായിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ ഏതെല്ലാം തരത്തിലുള്ള

പീഡനങ്ങളാണ് ദൈവസഭ ഇന്ന് നേരിട്ട് കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ യേശുവിനു പറയാനുള്ളത് അതൊന്നുമല്ല തന്റെ ജനം മാനസാന്തരപ്പെടണം എന്നാണ്. യഹൂദന്മാരെപ്പോലെ നമ്മൾ വചനം അനുസരിച്ചവർ, നീതിമാന്മാർ, ദശാംശം കൊടുക്കുന്നവർ, വേലയെ സപ്പോർട്ട് ചെയ്യുന്നവർ എന്നൊക്കെ കരുതി മാനസാന്തരത്തിനു ഇടം കൊടുക്കാതെ വെറുക്കപ്പെടരുതേ. യേശുവിന്റെ മടങ്ങി വരവ് വാതിൽക്കൽ എത്തിയെന്ന് സമ്മതിക്കുന്നവരാണ് നമ്മൾ.

എന്നാൽ മാനസാന്തരപ്പെടാതെ ദൈവരാജ്യത്തിൽ പ്രവേശനം ഇല്ല എന്ന യേശുവിന്റെ ആ സ്നേഹ പൂർവ്വമായ മുന്നറിയിപ്പ് ഏറ്റെടുക്കാൻ നമുക്ക് കഴിയുന്നുണ്ടോ?

ഈ സന്ദേശം യേശുവിൽ നിന്നും അതിനായി നമുക്ക് നൽകിയിരിക്കുന്ന അവസരമാണ്, കരുണയുടെ വിളിയുമാണ്.

ദൈവായി ഈ ദൂത അവഗണിക്കരുതേ... നമുക്ക് ഒരുങ്ങാം മാനസാന്തരപ്പെടാം.








Reena Reji

This world is not our home, it is a temporary abode, what is seen is short lived and the unseen realm is eternal. Life on earth is a passing shadow, sometimes what is hidden is more powerful and reflects through physical consequences during this interim phase of our journey. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to know your purpose, focus on the final destination and fulfill it before it is too late.


God is the Supernatural One, He is the creator and everything that He created was for a purpose , The ...


 **LILIES** : Hosea 14:5 says “I will be like the dew to Israel ; he will blossom like a lily” . Israel representing mankind and depending on the Holy Spirit to grow, blossoms like a lily which symbolizes purity and joy . The growth is swift, the result is a beautiful change of heart and the flowering of godly conduct. Song of Solomon uses lilies as a metaphor for love and beauty. The lilies have shallow roots, they can be easily pulled out but within the short span of their life, they spread their fragrance , beauty and serve their purpose .

 **OLIVES** : The olives represent the religious privileges of the Israelites. The olive trees can withstand harsh conditions and is a symbol of endurance and resilience. Olive oil is associated with royalty, used to anoint those favored by God, to anoint kings to office. The oil also represents the Holy spirit and the depth of faith in Jesus Christ. In 1 Kings 6: 31, it says Olive wood was used to make the doors at the entrance of the inner sanctuary of the temple. The Olive tree knows its significance and provides wood, fruit, oil to fulfill its purpose.

 **MUSTARD** :It grows into a large plant though

the seed is small in size. The mustard seed represents metaphorically the fullness of faith . Growth of His Kingdom is from small beginnings. The influence and transformative power of faith can produce big changes. Mustard is used as spice before cooking and also to add flavor by process called tempering to the cooked dishes. The mustard is tiny but knows its purpose and delivers its objective on earth.

 **VINE** : It represents the spiritual benefits of God’s people. Jesus says “ I’am the True Vine .” His careful cultivation is with expectation that His people will bear fruit which denotes the union of the divine and human nature , bound strongly in the same spirit. John 15: 4 says Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. This verse clearly denotes how a disciple must be securely connected with the Lord . Vine boosts immunity , keeps a person hydrated and the antioxidant properties help protect the blood vessels . The vine is a productive plant ,bearing fruit that has many benefits.

 **CEDAR**: The Cedar tree is the glory of Lebanon, it is a wood used as a substance for ritual cleansing . Cedar wood was used by Solomon to build the Lord’s temple . It denotes spiritual prosperity and moral integrity . The Cedar wood is hard, durable, has a natural lustre and distinctive long lasting fragrance. It is used as illustration in many verses in the Bible , symbolises a powerful nation in Ezekiel , flourishing of the righteous in Psalms, majesty ,strength and glory of Christ in Song of Songs. The cedar knows its significance and its purpose.



ACACIA :The Acacia wood was used in the construction of the sacred container in the Ark of the Covenant to hold the tablets of the Ten Commandments God also instructed Moses to use the acacia wood to make the framework, posts and crossbar of the Tabernacle . Acacia provides durable wood and has waterresistant properties . Its use in making of the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant signifies worship and divine presence of the Lord, connecting material world with the spiritual realm.



DOVE: The dove is a herald of peace, a symbol of hope and new life. Doves were offered as acceptable sacrifice due to their purity. Doves are amazing animals and can find their way home over hundreds and thousands of kilometres . This ability has been the reason to use them to deliver messages to military leaders and royal or notable figures . Doves are known to look out for calm environments and have a helpful nature . It says in Luke 3:21 and 22, “Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove” This is a public display of Christ’s divine nature , the confirmation of His anointing. God’s creation is perfect, even the little dove is obedient and completes its errand.



RAVEN : This is a black, carnivorous bird which is gifted with keen perception .Ravens are known to have voracious appetite but in contradiction to their nature , Bible says in 1 Kings 17: 4 , God ordered the ravens to feed Elijah with bread and meat in the morning and in the evening . Ravens are confident and have a graceful flight. They are inquisitive birds , can recognize individuals and learn new behaviors by observation . The verse “ Who provides food for the raven, when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food ?” reflects the divine parenting of our Lord and His provision . The ravens do not sow or reap and God provides for them . The ravens are opportunists but can be friendly to humans. God has a purpose even for the raven.



SHEEP : A domesticated animal,, kept for its wool , milk and meat . The skin was used in olden days to make parchments to write. Wealthy people owned flocks of sheep . It was a prized possession and was also offered as sacrifice. The sheep readily follow one another , willingly take direction from their master and are humble. There are many verses in the Bible that talk about the Sheep and the Shepherd . Jesus is the Good Shepherd , the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. The sheep symbolizes gentleness and innocence. Jesus is in search of people who will like the sheep be obedient to the master’s voice , follow him and do His will.



DEER : The deer is considered as a beautiful ,graceful, swift and sure footed animal. It is admired for its agility and grace . At times in an arid land like Israel, the deer has to travel long distances to find clear water. When they sense danger they can run swiftly even in difficult terrains. The prophet mentions in Habakkuk 3:19 “The Sovereign LORD is my strength, He makes my feet like the feet of a deer , He enables me to tread on the heights. To be surefooted as a deer means to stand firm or stand strong knowing where to go, when to go and what to do. The deer in the Bible symbolizes the spiritual longing and it also reminds us to reflect on our spiritual state , to pause and look inward to evaluate one’s own thirst for the things of the Spirit. The existence of the deer is for a purpose and God is in charge and has control over it.



MANKIND : So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. God saw that everything He created was good. He gave man authority, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. There are different stages in the life of a human being, from infants, toddlers, childhood , adolescence, and adulthood. It says in the Bible , “Children are a heritage from the Lord , offspring a reward from Him.” In another verse , it says “Train up a child in the way he should go when he is old he will not depart from it.” The Lord Almighty looks down from Heaven , His desire is that at any stage in life , man made in his own image must obey His commandments and be subject to His will. Ecclesiastes 12:1 reads - Remember your Creator in the days of your youth and in Psalms 103: 5 “Who satisfies your years with good things. So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.” It is at this phase in life that the worldly desires try to dominate and rule the heart and mind. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Ephesians 4: 15 says , Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. We are the body of Christ, our body represents the temple of God , where the Holy Spirit lives, it is the gift from God. We are called by His name, formed and created for His glory. We are to fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. During Jesus’ life on Earth, He cared for the poor, healed the sick and never turned a deaf ear to anyone’s cry for help. His love is endless and available to all of us. Jesus taught us to forgive and to love our enemies. We are to follow in His footsteps. Our purpose in this world will be fulfilled when we hear His voice, submit to His call, rely only in His presence and stay in the center of His will. **“KNOW YOUR PURPOSE, FOR EVERYTHING HE MADE WAS FOR A REASON AND WITH A SPECIAL PURPOSE”**



Mary Sweety Gomez

Have you ever noticed how people promise to stay with you? Whether it's your parents, your spouse, or your dearest ones, they say, "I'll be there for you till my last breath."

And yet, deep down, we know that their presence is limited by time, by life itself. Life is fragile. People grow old, circumstances change, and one day, we must part. So, who will be with us beyond the boundaries of this world? Who can walk with us through death and into eternity?

John 14:2-3 says: "In my father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

No human can offer what Jesus does. Even the deepest love is limited by time, by life, by mortality. But Jesus? He prepares an eternal home for us and promises to return from Heaven to bring us into glory.

He doesn't just say, "I love you." He proves it by: Leaving Heaven (Philippians 2:6-8) -humbled Himself to become one of us
Suffering on the Cross (Romans 5:8) -He bore our sins.

Rising Again (1 Corinthians 15:20-22) - Conquered death, giving life to all who believe.
Preparing an Eternal Home (John 14:2-3) - A place where no sorrow, pain, and tears. This is not duty, nor is it obligation. It is pure, eternal love a love that yearns for closeness, delights in fellowship, and calls us to true belonging.

Only Jesus loves you enough to die for you, live for you, and come back for you.

Let His love sink deep into your heart. He knows your name, your struggles, your joys, your fears. He whispers to you every day: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Because of His love, you are never alone. You are never forgotten. And one day, you will see the fullness of His promise eternal life with Him, face to face (1 John 3:2)

So today, let us open our hearts to our Heavenly Father and say with immense love: "Abba Father, we love You deeply, and we wait with joyful anticipation for Your coming. We long for the day when You will take us into the eternal home You have lovingly prepared for us.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, and make all things new.

"In my father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and receive you unto Myself".



STRATEGIC WAY TO VICTORY



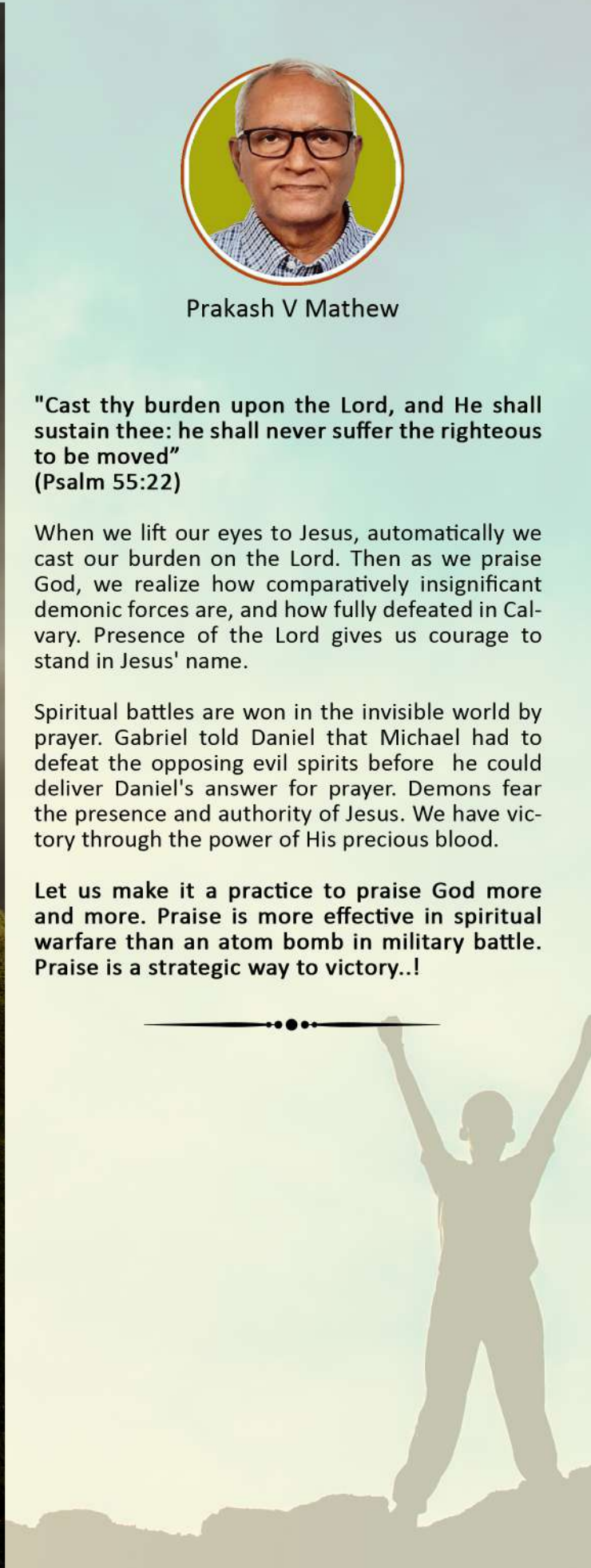
Prakash V Mathew

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved"
(Psalm 55:22)

When we lift our eyes to Jesus, automatically we cast our burden on the Lord. Then as we praise God, we realize how comparatively insignificant demonic forces are, and how fully defeated in Calvary. Presence of the Lord gives us courage to stand in Jesus' name.

Spiritual battles are won in the invisible world by prayer. Gabriel told Daniel that Michael had to defeat the opposing evil spirits before he could deliver Daniel's answer for prayer. Demons fear the presence and authority of Jesus. We have victory through the power of His precious blood.

Let us make it a practice to praise God more and more. Praise is more effective in spiritual warfare than an atom bomb in military battle. Praise is a strategic way to victory..!





Dinu Elizabeth Arun

In the quiet moments of reflection, a simple yet powerful question arises: Who do you truly prioritize in your life?

Not by what you say - but by how you spend your time.

Each day, we are given the same 24 hours. Yet, how we use those hours speaks volumes about what holds first place in our hearts. From the moment we wake up, our schedules begin to fill-work, studies, responsibilities, family needs, and even moments lost to scrolling or distractions. Hours pass quickly, and by the end of the day, we often feel exhausted, having poured ourselves into everything that demanded our attention.

But where, in all of this, is God?

If we pause and examine our day honestly, many of us may realize that while we dedicate hours to our responsibilities, only a few fleeting moments if any - are intentionally given to prayer, Scripture, or simply being in God's presence. And this leads us to a deeper truth: time is the clearest reflection of priority.

The Bible gently but firmly reminds us in Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." This is not merely a suggestion - it is an invitation to reorder our lives. God is not meant to fit into the leftover spaces of our day. He is meant to be at the center of it.

Yet, in reality, many of us live differently. We prioritize what feels urgent over what is eternal. Deadlines take precedence over devotion. Responsibilities overshadow relationship. Without even realizing it, we begin to rely more on our own strength than on God's guidance.

Still, Scripture calls us back. In Psalm 46:10, we hear the quiet command: "Be still, and know that I am God." In a world that constantly demands movement, productivity, and noise, God invites us into stillness—a space where we can reconnect, realign, and remember who truly sustains us.

So, the question is not meant to bring guilt, but awareness: Who do you prioritize more - God, or everything else?

The answer is not found in our intentions, but in our daily choices. The good news is that priorities can be realigned. It doesn't require hours of drastic change, but a willing heart. A few intentional moments - starting the day with prayer, reflecting on God's Word, or inviting Him into everyday decisions - can gradually shift our focus.

Because when God becomes our priority, everything else begins to fall into its rightful place.



STOP SEEKING VALIDATION FROM THIS IMPERFECT WORLD

Why do we seek validation or confirmation from a world that crucified and rejected a perfect man?

1 Samuel 16:7 says that the Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

David was probably around 5ft tall, the youngest among his brothers and people thought that he was not worthy of fighting Goliath, the giant who was around 9 feet tall. But David believed that the God who delivers him from the lions will deliver him from this giant as well. Later, we see that he also becomes the King's son-in-law even though he was from a clan not well-known.

God doesn't care about our physical appearance nor should we. It's okay if people mock us or reject us based on our looks. They mocked Jesus too, a blameless man; how much more should we not expect it?

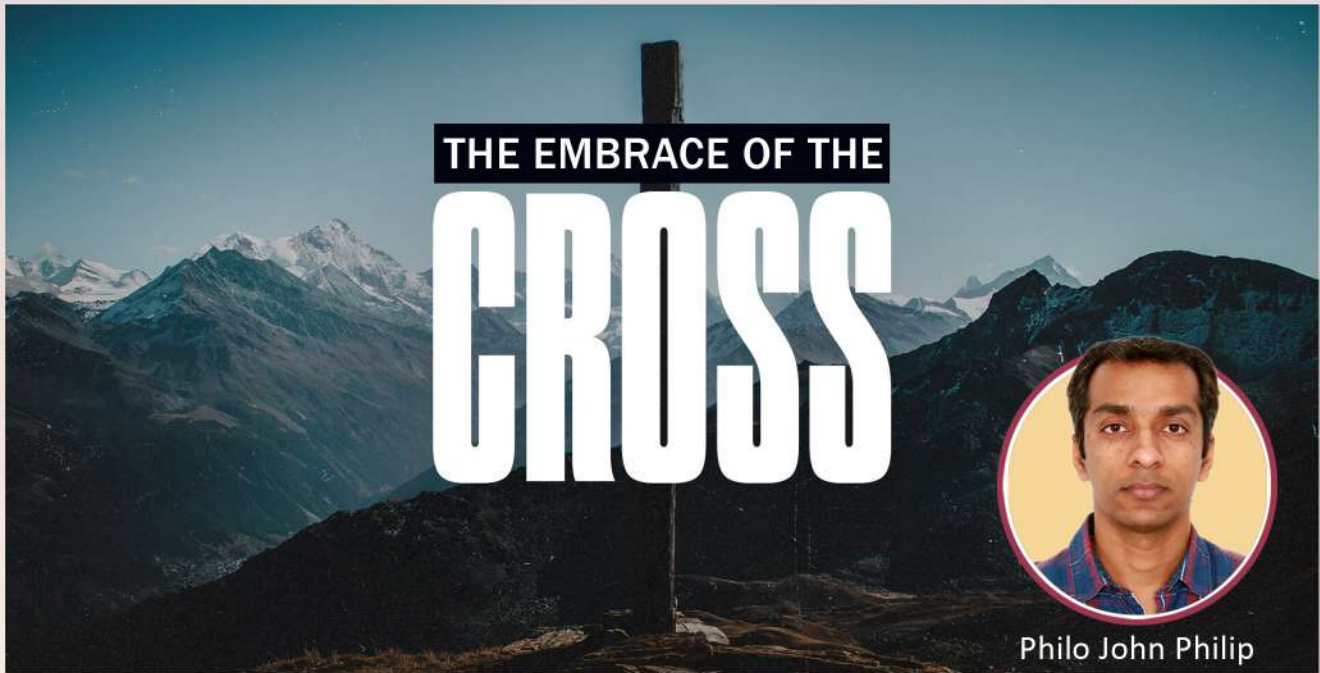
Let this be a reminder to not seek validation from the world but rather think about making our heart pleasing to God. We should aim to please God and not humans. God cares about our heart more than anything else.

Also remember that when God is with you, the giants in your life won't be the same anymore. He is greater than the giants in your life!



Ruth Rachel Reji





THE EMBRACE OF THE

CROSS



Philo John Philip

The cross of Jesus Christ is more than a symbol of suffering; it is the greatest revelation of who God truly is. When we look at the cross, our understanding of God, love, and humanity is transformed.

1. The Cross Gives Us a New Vision of God

The apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2 that “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.” The cross corrects many faulty understandings people have about approaching God. Some believe that we must reach God through many mediators or human systems. But the cross shows something different: God Himself came to us in Christ.

In Jesus, we see the beautiful mystery of the Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, working together for the redemption of humanity. It was not a moment where Christ was abandoned and left alone. Rather, God was in Christ, actively reconciling the world.

It is like two hands reaching and holding each other: God in Christ, and Christ in God. The cross reveals that God Himself stepped into our brokenness to restore us.

2. The Cross Is the Place Where God Reveals Himself

The cross is the place where God fully reveals His nature. In Jesus we see the Servant King, the One who leads not through domination but through humble service.

For a human being, the point of absolute powerlessness is death. Death represents the end of all human strength. Yet it was precisely at this moment that God’s power was displayed most

clearly. Through the death of Christ, God defeated sin and opened the way for salvation.

What appeared to be weakness was actually divine strength. What looked like defeat became the greatest victory.

3. The Cross Reveals the True Meaning of Love

The cross gives us a clear and powerful understanding of what true love really is. In Ephesians 5:2, we are called to “walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us.” This shows us that love is not just a feeling or an emotion. It is a choice and a commitment.

The love of God, as seen on the cross, is willing to sacrifice. It is patient in suffering and faithful even in the hardest moments. This love accepts us as we are, without conditions, and gently works to cleanse and restore us. It protects us, covers our weaknesses, and never gives up on us, even when we fail.

The Bible tells us that God is love, and this love was revealed to us in a real and personal way through Jesus of Nazareth. When we look at the cross, we do not just see suffering, but we see love in its purest form. In this way, the cross completely changes and deepens our understanding of what love truly means.

4. The Cross Changes How We See People

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 that we should no longer look at people from an outward, human point of view. Normally, we tend to evaluate others based on their appearance, social status, or worldly value. This is our natural way of thinking.

But even Jesus of Nazareth did not fit into these human expectations of greatness. People looked at Him externally and failed to recognize who He truly was. The cross broke this wrong way of thinking and revealed the truth about real worth and honor.

In the same way, the cross corrects our understanding. It shows us that judging by outward appearance is not right. When Paul says we should no longer see people in a worldly way, he means that our thinking must change because of what Christ has done.

The cross cleanses our vision. It removes the blindness in our eyes and helps us to see others through Jesus. Instead of judging people based on what we see outside, we learn to accept, embrace, and receive one another in love.

5. The Cross Gives Us a New Perspective on Pain and Shame

Life often brings painful questions. Do we always have perfect families? Do we raise children without struggles? Are our prayers always answered exactly the way we expect?

Sometimes our prayers seem to be answered in ways opposite to what we desire. In those moments we may cry out, "Lord, where are You?"

The cross reminds us that God is present even in our moments of suffering and shame. He may not always remove the pain immediately, but He walks with us through it. His love sustains us and carries us forward.

Through the cross, God calls us to something greater than living only for ourselves. We are called to share His love with others.

Paul reminds us that we are ambassadors for this gospel, "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us." (2 Corinthians 5:20). This means we are called to represent Christ and share His love with others. The message of the cross invites us to open our hearts and welcome people into the embrace of God's love.

What once seemed like the darkest day in history became Good Friday because of what God did through Jesus. As it is written, "God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Through Christ and the Holy Spirit, God is reaching out and drawing people close to Him.

The cross reveals the God we serve, a God who loves, sacrifices, and restores. It changes how we see God, how we understand love, and how we see one another.

Therefore, let us respond with gratitude and worship. Let us embrace the One who embraced us first.

Let us worship the King of Kings.





OUR SERVICES

Sunday

9.30 AM - 11.00 AM
(English Service)
11.30 AM - 1.00 PM
(Malayalam Service)

Saturday

Bible Study
9.00 AM - 10.30 AM
(Online - Zoom)

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Faith City Church

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