



THE CROSS by Rod Parsley

EXCERPTS

“...the cross is disappearing from our cityscapes and church platforms. But in a broader, profounder and more troubling sense, we’ve been voluntarily removing it from our hearts and minds. Silently, steadily, stealthily—without fanfare or debate—we have slipped the cross out of our preaching, from our singing and from our daily living. As a result, the cross is fading from our collective consciousness.”

“The cross is the hinge-point of human history. It is the fulcrum of God’s grand, brilliant lever—four thousand years in the crafting—that in a single day pried a fallen world from Satan’s soul-killing grasp. It is at the foot of the cross, and there alone, that we can look with horrified wonder upon the raw ferocity of God’s love for a fallen race.”

“What is not in dispute is the site of the loneliest intersection in history. The place that no one desired to come to and yet, the very place where all humanity must be summoned to make their appearance.”

“It is the intersection of two rough-hewn beams of wood. One stands vertical—pointing simultaneously to heaven and hell. The other is horizontal and serves to mark an invisible line; parallel to the surface of the earth and extending outward to circle the planet. It is this planet that fell victim to a curse when its designated steward-lord willfully forfeited control to an outlaw deceiver.”

“...the cross of Calvary’s crucified Lamb is where the bankrupt culture of a fallen race encounters the transformative power of sacrificial servanthood. In other words, Golgotha is not the singular site of Satan’s defeat. It is more than just the place where you and I find adoption and restoration—as deeply amazing as that is. It is at this intersection that whole nations and entire people groups can be made perfectly whole. The leaves of Calvary’s tree are for the healing of the nations.”

“There is a cross down here. But the church has forgotten meekness and humility in an age of ostentatious pride and self-aggrandizement. We’ve lost sight of the truth, shouted from the top of Calvary’s mountaintop by a battered, bleeding man with a sign reading “King” nailed above His head—that service and self-sacrifice, and most of all love, are our keys to influence and victory.”

“One of the great glories of the cross is that Jesus did more than bear our sin. He bore the first great consequence of sin—our shame. No matter what we’ve done or what has been done to us, we are invited to come to Calvary and leave our shame there. At the cross our consciences are sprinkled clean. All of our deep defilements are washed away.”

“A crime. A penalty paid by an innocent substitute. A free offer of restoration and renewal. A story so simple a little child can comprehend it. Too simple, in fact, for many of the intellects of this upside-down age.”

“The cross is a window into the heart of God. Some look and are offended. Some look and cry, “Foolishness!” But some see love on display. These come and lay their burdens down. These come and live.”