

KNOWING JESUS CRUCIFIED

"For I resolve to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

Galatians 2:2

REFLECTION

One of the most poignant scenes in Mel Gibson's movie, "Passion of Christ," was the dark clouds opening up and the camera focused only on one drop of rain as it fell slowly down from the sky towards where Jesus was crucified. It carries a strong stirring message of grief and love, as if capturing for us the tears of the Father in anguish as Jesus hung on the cross before his tortured body collapsed and He died.

When we consider the extent of God's love for us all, how can we who have experienced the liberating love of Christ forget what he has gone through at Calvary to give us life eternal? What Jesus did on the cross reveals God's redemptive initiative that offers us repentant sinners an escape route, out of our mess, so that we can return to his fold. So, when you are tempted to stray from the way of God, don't be too quick to give in. Pause and think about Calvary; think about the Cross of Christ and resolve to know "nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

"Lest I forget Gethsemane,
Lest I forget thine agony,
Lest I forget thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary." (Jennie Evelyn Hussey)

PRAYER

Dear Lord, God Almighty; it is so easy for us to accept the gift of salvation from you without paying sufficient attention to the message of the cross, and without showing appreciation for your gift. Forgive us for our slowness to acknowledge your generous love and priceless gift. Enable us, by the power of your transforming grace, to live a life marked by the cross of Christ. Amen

SUPPLICATION

- We thank God for showing us what true love is when Jesus willingly took the way of the cross and sacrificed his life to redeem a sin-sick world. We ask God to teach us how to be filled with his love, so that we too will be able to love, just as God has

loved us, although the best we can offer can never match his sacrificial love for us all.

- During this pandemic period, churches have been shaken, programmes disrupted, worship services had to take on different mode and arrangement. We are not sure what kind of shape and life a currently disrupted church will look like, once the threat of COVID19 has subsided. So we pray that God will work with and enable our leaders to seize the opportunity even in time of crisis to prepare the church for a better future, where the church will be truly a community of faithful believers, well-equipped to take on the challenges of our time without buying into the godless culture which the world has been enticing us to accept.
- We pray that God will protect his children in countries where Christians have been targeted for persecution or ridicule. Carrying the cross to follow Jesus is tough in such countries. Yet we pray that Christians facing hostility will find peace and protection from our Lord and our God.
- For our troubled world, we pray that peace with justice will be restored in Myanmar; that stronger countries will not intimidate weaker countries in the disputed waters of South China Sea; that evil forces will be exposed and people responsible for the disappearance of pastors and social workers in Malaysia will be apprehended.

*"In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering over the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.*

*Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified.
Peace is there that knows no measure
Joys that through all time abide."*

(John Bowring)

**If you need any prayer or pastoral care support,
kindly contact the pastoral care team via:**

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