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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.
Sonshiners: 4:45pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

You He Made Alive (Eph 2:1-7)

PM Sermon

Joel – lesson 1

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Living on the Lord's side – R. Earl

Wednesday Bible Class:

Evangelism in 2021 - R. Earl

The Gospel of Christ TV Program

on Saturday @ 7:30am on Channel 53

BibleWayMediaMedia.org

Daily podcasts available on our website
& mobile app

The Oologah church of Christ only uses
the **KJV, NKJV or ASV** translation of
the Bible in classes & sermons.

The Oologah Informer

March 7th, 2021

Lessons from the Old Rugged Cross.

Toney L. Smith

The death of our Lord Jesus Christ is the single most important event to have ever happened in human history. Of course, this does not lessen the importance of other great Bible events. However, every one of those other events would be without real value if it were not for the redemption of mankind on the “OLD RUGGED CROSS.” It is a message of supreme importance! The events of the Old Testament speak of the crucifixion of Jesus. The New Testament helps us see how the cross relates to our salvation. We need to look back to that day on Calvary's hill and apply the lessons found in that cross.

What then does the Old Rugged Cross say to us? What are the messages we are to learn?

The Old Rugged Cross declares that sin is real. No one can say that he has never sinned or that he will not commit sin in the future (1 John 1:8-10; Romans 3:23). The Scriptures tell us that the “wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). If one is not careful, he will become enslaved to sin (Romans 6:17-18) and allow that master to hold him in bondage. Having once been servants of sin, the obedient have been set free from the consequences of those sins to become the servant of God. We cannot serve both God and the world, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24). The Old Rugged Cross is where the dearest and best, for a world of lost sinners was slain.

The Old Rugged Cross declares that we need a Savior. In the Mosaic Law, animal sacrifices were made for the sins of men. However, we learn that those sacrifices could not remove our sins, “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins” (Hebrews 10:4). In Titus 2:14, we observe the phrase; “... gave himself for us, that he

might redeem us..." Mankind could not save himself from the consequence of sin (Titus 3:5). Salvation came from the mind of God, not from the minds of men (Ephesians 2:1-10). He made the sacrifice for us in sending His "only begotten Son" (John 3:16). Without the blood of Christ, there can be no salvation. (Romans 5:10; Hebrews 9:13-14; 10:1-4). Our atonement came from the sacrifice of Jesus; "For 'twas' on that old cross Jesus suffered and died to pardon and sanctify me."

The Old Rugged Cross demonstrates God's love for us (Titus 3:3-7). Sin is so horrible and so overwhelming that men often just give up. We must never forget that God's love is so wonderful. He said, "I'll pay the price." The cross of Christ demonstrates and gives sure evidence of God's love for our souls (2 Peter 3:9); "He that spared not his own Son but delivered him up for us all" (Romans 8:32).

Many in our world today reject the fact that Jesus came and died on the cross for our benefit. When the crucifixion of Jesus is denied, the love of God is also denied. The sacrifice of Christ is a token of His love for mankind, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us..." (1 John 3:16). Can we ever imagine such love? One who would sacrifice his only son to save a guilty person? God did just that, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:6-8). Yes, the Old Rugged Cross declares the love of God!

The Old Rugged Cross stands as assurance of our redemption (Titus 2:14). Redemption is a beautiful word because sin separates men from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). In that condition, we are lost, and without hope in the world. However, the cross of Jesus makes reconciliation and salvation possible. There is power in His blood to redeem every man from every sin (1 Peter 1:18-19); to justify those who have gone into sin (Romans 5:10), and to bring about forgiveness so that our guilt is taken away (Ephesians 1:7). By His precious blood, we are healed; we are sanctified. The Old Rugged Cross is a powerful assurance; "For the dear Lamb of God, left his Glory above to pardon and sanctify me!"

Modern man needs the message of the "old-rugged cross." Christ died for all of mankind. However, it is man's responsibility to obey the gospel (2 Thess. 1:7-9). God has given us the means by which we can save ourselves (Acts 2:40-41). We must obey His will. Obedience requires hearing and believing the gospel (Mark 16:15-16; Romans 1:16).

We should love and cherish that Old Rugged Cross. It is the only means through which we can receive that eternal crown!