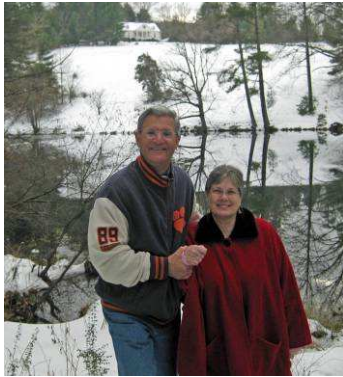
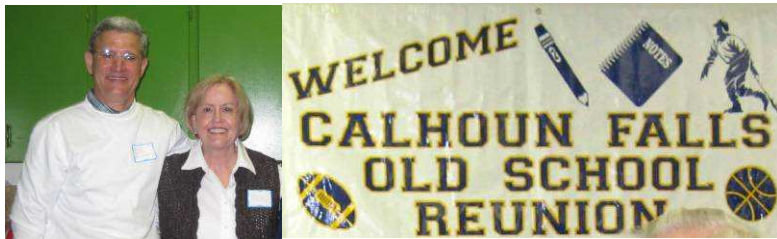


PERSONAL REFLECTIONS



A white Christmas at Carl Sandburg's house in Flat Rock, NC.



At a reunion with my mother in Calhoun Falls, SC.



Boys praying in chapel at the Boys Home of the South (L).

A huge snowman at the Boys Home of the South (R)! ☺



A pilgrim's testimony of the way of the cross.
January/February/March 2010

*The word (message) of the cross
is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God
(1 Corinthians 1:18).*

The phrase **the cross** means the whole saving work of God in the death, burial, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus, including God's uniting us with Him in all of these. **The cross** is the fulfillment and climax of all of history! Jesus said in Mark 1:14-15, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Repent and believe the gospel."

Enclosed is the heart of the message of the cross...the heart of the gospel. It is the foundation for the ministry of Journey in Christ. And it is the foundation and the hope of my life. ☺

I hope you find this newsletter encouraging and empowering. You can read more on the message of the cross on my personal website www.Christmyheart.org. Blessings!

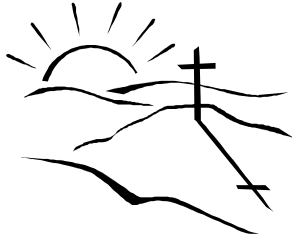
Journey in
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THE CROSS IS VITAL IN EVERYONE'S CONCEPT OF GOD

The LOVE of God is displayed on the cross like no other place.

God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)



The cross also demonstrates the HOLINESS of God. It shows God's absolute requirement that the demands of His holiness be met, and the price He had to pay to do that while at the same time reconciling the world to Himself.

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed...that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (Romans 3:21, 26).

The character of God cannot be fully realized apart from the cross. When we look at the cross, we see the paramount expression of how much God loves people. In the cross, God is able to fully love and fully forgive AND be true to both of His attributes of love and holiness without diminishing either one!

These notes are primarily a compilation of excerpts from my friend:
John E. Best, *The Cross of Christ – The Center of Scripture, Your Life, and Ministry* (Garland, TX: Abundant Living Resources, 2009), pp. 3-4.
[www.abundantlivingresources.org]

THE CROSS IS VITAL IN THE CHRISTIAN'S CONCEPT OF GOD

To the believer, the cross shows two more characteristics of God which would never be seen fully without viewing them through the cross. To the believer, it is so profoundly personal.

First, the cross conveys God's total ACCEPTANCE of each of us. This is related to His great love, but takes us even further. God loves a whole world of people whom He cannot accept because of His holiness. For those who have been taken out of Adam and placed into Christ, however, He has changed us at Calvary in such a way that not only does He accept us because of the sacrifice of Christ, He also made us ACCEPTABLE in Christ. Now, intimacy with a holy God is possible!

Bless be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...by which He made us accepted in His beloved Son (Ephesians 3:3-6).

BEING ACCEPTED vs. BEING ACCEPTABLE

A teenaged boy was asked if his parents accepted him. He said, "I suppose so," indicating his parents were obligated to do so. When asked if he was acceptable to his parents, without hesitation he sadly bowed his head and whispered, "No."

Second, we also see the holiness of God at the cross, but in an expanded sense. We see the ENABLEMENT of Christ to live a holy life through each of us, because of our union with Christ in His death and resurrection. We see Christ PRODUCING His holiness within each of us!

*The world strives for PERFORMANCE-BASED ACCEPTANCE.
The kingdom of God rests upon ACCEPTANCE-BASED PERFORMANCE.*