

# "THE CROSS THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE"

Daniel F. Cates

One of the students prayed, "[We thank You for forgiveness and for] Your Son that died on the cross that made it possible."

Likely he meant, "Your Son Who died on the cross and made it possible."

He could have meant, "Your Son's dying on the cross making it possible."

What he said, grammatically, but likely did not mean is this: The cross [as opposed to Jesus or His dying] made forgiveness possible.

Sometimes the cross can receive too much attention.

Jerusalem--piece of the cross.

Many have a crucifix on a religious structure, a kitchen wall, even on an article which they wear; however, they don't truly look to the One upon the cross.

The same is done with other Christian symbols like the fish or wheel.

Truly, the focus needs to be on the One who was on the cross.

[Heb 12:2](#), "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

To a degree, the grammatical error was not wrong.

We sing "The Old Rugged Cross" [George Bennard, 1913] emphasizing that very thing.

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see,  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,  
Where His glory forever I'll share.

Frend records the following: ". . . the intrepid pilgrim Etheria [I do not know, but Laurie and Frend may be referring to the same pilgrim] has left an eyewitness account of the details of the services she attended at Jerusalem (c. 385). At Easter people would become exhausted by their all-night vigil before Easter day, for the distinctive ceremonies of the Great Week began 'six days before the Passover.' Etheria recalls a merciful instruction from the bishop: 'Now off you go home and sit down for a bit until the next service. Then all be back here at about 8 o'clock so that you can see the holy wood of the Cross, that as everyone

*Chorus:*

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it someday for a crown.

The cross that made it possible was ...

... an undignified death.

Alexaminos

[Gal 3:13](#), "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:"  
[Deu 21:22-23](#), "And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged *is* accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee *for* an inheritance."

... an elevated hope.

[Joh 3:14-16](#), "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

[Joh 12:32-33](#), "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die."

... a unifying object.

[Col 2:14](#), "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;"

[Col 1:20](#), "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven."

[Eph 2:13-16](#), "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:"

... a glorified ensign.

[Gal 6:14](#), "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."