



## 2017 Q3 The Gospel in Galatians - Lesson 14: Boasting in the Cross

**The Cross – Roman torture device** which was intended to be the most humiliating, most painful, most drawn out period of suffocation that always ended in death. Even if that meant breaking of the legs to force death by suffocation.

So how can we boast about this?

Christians show the cross, wear the cross, put in on their churches and Bibles. Why?

- Because payment was made?
- God's anger was appeased?
- God showed us just how much He loves us?
- God created a cure for our incurable illness of sin?

### SABBATH

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Memory Text - Galatians 6: 14, "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the work has been crucified to me, and I to the world...."

**Galatians 6:15 adds**, "...what counts is a new creation."

**Jeremiah 9:23, 24,**"This is what the Lord says: 'Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: **that they have the understanding to know me**, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delights,' declares the Lord."

Does the cross help to give us the understanding to know God?

Would we boast about the doctor we had found who had:

- **Kindness:** The ability to show compassion
- **Justice:** The ability to correctly diagnose
- **Righteousness:** The ability to restore the terminally ill to health and life

### SUNDAY

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#### Paul's own Hand

Paul takes a very personal, agonizing interest in the welfare of the Galatian Christians.

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## MONDAY

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### Boasting in the Flesh

**Galatians 6:12, 13**, “Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The **ONLY** reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. Not even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh.”

He intimates that his opponents are hiding behind a mask.

**Question:** “What should this tell us about how even the “best” of motives can lead us astray if we aren’t careful? Is avoiding persecution a “best” motive?”

## TUESDAY

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### Boasting in the Cross

**Second paragraph:** “Jews found the idea of a crucified Messiah offensive, and Roman found crucifixion so repulsive that it was not even mentioned as a form of punishment suitable for a Roman citizen.”

**It was predicted that we would misunderstand the cross. Isaiah 53:1-5**, “Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely **HE TOOK UP OUR INFIRMITIES** and **CARRIED OUR SORROWS**, but **WE CONSIDERED HIM STRICKEN BY GOD, SMITTEN BY HIM, AND AFFLICTED. BUT he was pierced for OUR transgressions, he was crushed for OUR iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and BY HIS WOUNDS WE ARE HEALED.**”

**Jesus’ preparation for the cross prior to the Garden of Gethsemane: John 13:1-5**, “It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, **he now showed them the full extent of his love**. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. **Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.**”



## Have you considered the Cross in the light of the Seventh day Sabbath?

- **Just like when “The Word”, the part of God that we now know as Jesus created a day of rest to allow us to consider how he uses his power, Jesus once again shows us what he does with power over ALL things.** Christ worked, then created a day of rest for us to consider how he uses His power. So in both cases we can learn about Him, learn to trust Him, appreciate Him, which develops into love for Him...and He gives us the love and desire to love.
- We focus on Judas, and Peter, but Jesus knows that very same day, every single one of his disciples will either desert, deny or betray him. (Matthew 26:31-35)
- He gives them this gift, shows them he is able and willing to clean them no matter how dirty they get.
- Gives them/us an example of how to love others
- Shows us how to help others accurately see and know THIS GOD.
- **Possible parable in the cross? Death to self before finding rest in God/Christ, which brings us life?**

### Disciples and the cross:

#### Darkness before Dawn, Page 36, E. G. White

“Before His crucifixion the Savior explained to His disciples that he was to be put to death and to rise again from the tomb, and angels were present to impress His words on minds and hearts. But the disciples were looking for temporal deliverance from the Roman yoke, and **they could not tolerate the thought that He in whom all their hopes centered should suffer an ignominious death.** The words which they needed to remember were banished from their minds; and when the time of trial came, it found them unprepared. The death of Jesus as fully destroyed their hopes as if He had not forewarned them. So in the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready.”

- What has the Cross done to affect your relationship to the world?
- What difference has it made in your life?
- How differently do you live now than you did before giving yourself to the Lord, who died for you?



## Angel's Response to Christ's birth:

### 2 Spirit of Prophecy, Page 16, E.G. White

“In Heaven it was understood that the time had come for the advent of Christ to the world, and angels leave glory to witness his reception by those he came to bless and save. They had witnessed his glory in Heaven, and they anticipate that he will be received with honor in accordance with his character, and the dignity of his mission. As angels approach the earth, they first come to the people God had separated from the nations of the world as his peculiar treasure. They see no especial interest among the Jews, no eager waiting and watching that they may be the first to receive the Redeemer, and acknowledge his advent. In the temple, which had been hallowed by daily sacrificial offerings, prefiguring his coming, and symbolizing his death, no preparations are being made to welcome the Savior of the world. The Pharisees continue to repeat their long, meaningless prayers in the streets, to be heard of men, in order to obtain the reputation of great piety and devotion. **The angels from Heaven behold with astonishment the indifference of the people, and their ignorance in regard to the advent of the Prince of Life.** The proud Pharisees, claiming to be God's chosen people, in their hypocritical devotions, are proclaiming the law, and exalting traditions, while men of other nations are dealing in fables, and are worshiping false gods. All alike were ignorant of the great event which prophecy had foretold would transpire.”

## Angel's Response to Christ's trial and death:

### Desire of Ages, Page 700, E.G. White

“The angels of heaven witnessed every movement made against their loved Commander. **They longed to deliver Christ.** Under God the angels are all-powerful. On one occasion, in obedience to the command of Christ, they slew of the Assyrian army in one night one hundred and eighty-five thousand men. How easily could the angels, beholding the shameful scene of the trial of Christ, have testified their indignation by consuming the adversaries of God! But they were not commended to do this. He who could have doomed His enemies to death bore with their cruelty. His love for His Father, and His pledge, made from the foundation of the world, to become the Sin Bearer, led him to endure uncomplainingly the coarse treatment of those He came to save. **It was a part of His mission to bear, in His humanity, all the taunts and abuse that men could heap upon Him. The only hope of humanity was in this submission of Christ to all that He could endure from the hands and hearts of men.**”

Look at the Compassion our Creator has for us!



Understanding the Cross as a multifaceted Jewel – and through it, Christ:

- Perfected an unselfish, loving character to his death, which he gives us for free.
- Showed how much God values our freedom
- Ripped off the mask of Satan and his methods and view of God – how his kingdom would work. Satan is a liar and murderer. God did not kill Satan, but gave him the chance on this earth to show the universe his idea of governing, but from the moment Christ was born, Satan showed that he would kill God to accomplish his goals, and finally succeeded. (Christ laid down his own life....)
- The trapper became the trapped
- Opened his disciples' eyes to their true hearts and characters
- Witness to the whole Universe of watching beings, to further understand God
- Cuts off our affection from this world and points us to God
- Showed us the true meaning of sacrifice
- Said, "It is finished!" (what is finished?)
- "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." John 12:34
- "...unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds" John 12:24
- Saved one thief, changed the course of one man's life during a portion of one day so completely that Christ assured him he would be with Him in paradise.
- **Was a living/dying parable? (God told Moses to make a bronze snake, and the Israelites who were bitten by poisonous snakes and looked up at it and live. Numbers 21:6-9). This was to represent Christ curing us of the poisonous bite of the serpent Satan.**

Can we make an idol out of the cross, by misinterpreting it?

Later, they named that snake "Nehushtan" (means 'a brazen thing' or 'a mere piece of brass'), burned incense to it and worshipped it, so that Hezekiah had to break it into pieces. 2 Kings 18:4-4.

Worshipping the snake instead of who and what it pointed to?

#### **Last Paragraph:**

**"The cross of Christ changes everything for the believer.** It challenges us not only to reevaluate how we view ourselves but also how we related to the world. The world – this present evil age and all that it entails (1 John 2:16) – stand in opposition to God. Because we have died with Christ, the world no longer has the enslaving power it once held over us, and the old life that we once lived for the world is no longer. Following Paul's analogy, **the break between the believer and the world should be as if the two died to each other.**"

So, how do Christ and his angels view our lack of Compassion toward each other?



Last week, I quoted **Proverbs 24: 11-12**, which bears repeating today:

“Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, “But we knew nothing about this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards YOUR life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?”

#### **Desire of Ages, Page 825, E. G. White**

“Divine love has been stirred to its unfathomable depths for the sake of men, and angels marvel to behold in the recipients of so great love a mere surface gratitude. Angels marvel at man’s shallow appreciation of the love of God. Heaven stands indignant at the neglect shown to the souls of men. Would we know how Christ regards it? How would a father and mother feel, did they know that their child, lost in the cold and the snow, had been passed by, and left to perish, by those who might have saved it? Would they not be terribly grieved, wildly indignant? Would they not denounce those murderers with wrath hot as their tears, intense as their love? The sufferings of every man are the sufferings of God’s child, and those who reach out no helping hand to their perishing fellow beings provoke His righteous anger.”

#### **Testimonies for the Church volume 4, pages 319 and 320, E.G. White**

“I have read of a man who, journeying on a winter’s day through the deep, drifted snow, became benumbed by the cold which was almost imperceptibly stealing away his vital powers. And as he was nearly chilled to death by the embrace of the frost king, and about to give up the struggle for life, he heard the moans of a brother traveler, who was perishing with cold as he was about to perish. His humility was aroused to rescue him. He chafed the ice-clad limbs of the unfortunate man, and, after considerable effort, raised him to his feet; and as he could not stand, he bore him in sympathizing arms through the very drifts he had thought he could never succeed in getting through alone. And when he had borne his fellow traveler to a place of safety, the truth flashed home to him that in saving his neighbor he had saved himself also. His earnest efforts to save another quickened the blood which was freezing in his own veins, and created a healthful warmth in the extremities of the body.”

#### **Manuscript 29, 1900, E. G. White**

“The angels of God will make effectual the work of men...O that those who are halting between two opinions could only understand the agencies continually at work to keep at bay the armies of the power of darkness! By presenting earthly advantages or earthly obstacles to defeat the purposes of God, and by various other methods, Satan would intercept every ray of light from the messengers of God. But if the curtain could be rolled back, and eyes now blind to the invisible agencies could view with restored spiritual vision **the conflict continually going on in behalf of the souls perishing away from Christ**, what a difference would be



made in the working of the agencies in this world! Decided advance movements would be made. Without delay their entire influence for good would be thrown on the side of Christ. They would behold **the intense interest of the angels of God in behalf of souls who are throwing away the opportunities and privileges now so valuable to them to obtain an experimental knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent.**”

We are culturally acclimatized by those around us, so people’s actions vary from culture to culture. To make ourselves more beautiful to others, some put rings around their necks until their necks are very tall, expand their earlobes until they are very large, glue white bird feathers into their hair, get tattoos, etc. They often have no idea that what they have grown up with and consider a mark of beauty, others would consider bizarre. We pay others to make our hair look nice, paint our toenails and fingernails, etc.

I went into a Hair Salon this week, and immediately noticed the smell of hair products wafting in the air. A few minutes later, I realized that I could no longer smell the hair products. I had already gotten used to them, though breathing long term fumes might do me harm.

Consider how this applies to our sensitivity toward what is good versus bad, how we distance ourselves from others because of our culture.

- Americans have the need for the most distance from others than any other culture, about 4 feet from friends and extended family, 4-10 feet from acquaintances or colleagues, 10 or more feet from strangers.
- Per Edward T Hall and Proxemics, Beyond Culture, 1977, Europeans require half as much distance as the US in conversation, 4-7 feet.
- Some cultures want to touch you while they talk with you. For example, one of my patients from Vietnam put her hand on my arm the whole time we were talking.

That speaks to the distance we must gap between us and other humans, but how do we love someone we can’t see?

- Jeremiah 3:14: “I am your husband.”
- Isaiah 54:5 “Your maker is your husband – the Lord Almighty is his name.”

What does it mean to love God with all your strength and heart? How do we go from being a stranger to God, then loving God with a love that is stronger than death? Think about how do we fall in love?

- What thoughts/feelings come to your mind when you think of falling in love with your girlfriend/boyfriend?
- What thought/feelings come to your mind when you think of falling in love with God?
- Differences? Similarities?

Compare: How do long distance relationships work?

Is loving God the same as knowing God? What does it mean to know God?



**Spoken by Jesus in the sermon on the Mount: Matthew 7: 21-23,**

“Not everyone who **says to me**, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord did we not **prophecy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?**’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘**I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!**’” The Complete Jewish Bible says, “**you workers of lawlessness!**”

**Matthew 22:35-40,**

“...an expert in the law, tested him with this questions: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: ‘**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘**Love your neighbor as yourself.**’ **ALL the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**”

**1 John 4:8,**

“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

**1 John 3:1,**

“How great is the love the Father has **LAVISHED on us**, that we should be called children of God? And that is what we are!”

How the Bible uses the word, “Knew.”?

Genesis 4:1, 17, 25 Yada – intimacy, NIV translated this way, “Adam made love to his wife”, “Cain made love to his wife” ...and they conceived...

“Seinfeld” TV show used this word to gloss over the details of intimate encounters, and it has become very popular usage in our culture to gloss over details of a story by saying, “and yada, yada, yada...”

Intimacy is dedicating ourselves to a person so we can engage them with our love and affection.

How does the cross help us to understand and intimately love God?

Jesus was giving his last talk to his disciples before his death in John 14, and said in verses 21, 23 and 24,

“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who lives me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.....Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. **My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.** Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

Peter thought he knew and loved and would die for Jesus, until after he denied Jesus. Proverbs 12:10,  
“**The righteous know** the needs of their animals, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.”

- Understanding the needs of those around us and taking care of them.



**Jeremiah 22:15, 16**, “Josiah...gave justice and help to the poor and needy and everything went well for him. **Isn’t that what it means to know me? Says the Lord.**”

1. Doing justice
2. Showing mercy to the poor and needy
3. Exemplifying a good and righteous character
4. Faithfully living out our covenant relationship with the Lord in every area of our life.

**Luke 24:30-32, 45** – The story of how Jesus in disguise walked with the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus after His resurrection. First He opened their minds, so they could understand scripture until their “Hearts Burned,” then He opened their eyes so they recognized Him.

How do we love perfectly?

1 John 4:15-21 to 1 John 5:1-4,

“If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God IS love. **Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.** This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”

**Jesus prayed his last prayer with the disciples prior to being crucified, in John 17:6, 26,**

“This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.....I have made you known to them and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and **that I MYSELF may be in them.**”

**The Signs of the Times, May 21, 1912, E.G.White.**

“The death of Christ removes every argument that Satan could bring against the precepts of Jehovah. Satan has declared that men could not enter the kingdom of heaven unless the law was abolished, and a way devised by which transgressors could be reinstated into the favor of God, and made heirs of heaven. He made the claim that the law must be changed, that the reins of government must be slacked in heaven, that sin must be tolerated, and sinners pitied and saved in their sins. But every such plea was cast aside when Christ died as a substitute for the sinner.”



**But the reverse is also true** – fear casts out love, and turns into self protection

“Marriage is a Dance” seminar Ken and I attended years ago, run by men, which was very different for me. What I learned from men:

- Your marriage is like a sport team: no one person wins or loses. Either the whole team wins or the whole team loses. If one person is consistently right/winning, it makes the other person is consistently wrong/losing. Who would want their most loved team member to always be feeling like a loser?
- To be a winning team, do anything it takes, reading, brainstorming, counseling, praying, to come up with a win-win solution to your problem. If you don't, your whole team loses.
- They redefined unfaithfulness as creating fear in your spouse, not just running around on your spouse
- Love can be regained if you get into close proximity and remove the fear.
- Treat each other's hearts very carefully, as something of extreme value...really get to know your spouse, get a Phd in your spouse.

### **Sanctuary Service as a guide to getting to know and love God:**

Come from outside the camp, through the Israelites, into the outer court, wash with the laver, eat the bread, see by the light, pray at the table of incense, go through Christ (the Curtain) and become covered with the gold from Christ as in the base of the ark (which was Acacia wood covered in gold), join with God above the ark, by Christ (the totally gold cover to the ark). The angels are watching and amazed by this whole process.

What is love in to us, to our culture?

We “love” those shoes, cute puppies, that dress, our children, all with the same word. Or we use similar sounding words like adore, captivated.....

How do you stay in love? What grows love in you?

- Truth
- Devotion
- Vulnerability
- Desire
- Worth
- Attractive
- Respond to being loved
- Amazement
- Appreciation
- Gratitude
- Learning about each other, not to take advantage, but to meet the other's needs
- Weed your garden
- Forgiveness
- Spend time with each other



- Share your life, not just your house

What decreases love?

- Lies
- Coercion
- Fear
- Indifference
- Lack of appreciation
- Allowing misunderstandings and resentments to grow
- Spending very little time with each other
- Taking advantage and presuming on the other
- Seeing marriage responsibilities as a duty, rather than as part of a partnership
- Disrespect

I have been asking people about how they relate to, know and love a God they can't see? Some of the responses have been:

- Use imagination to picture a scene and you and Jesus walking/talking together
- Remember miracles and answers to prayer that they and others have had.
- Other ways?

**Luke 10:22-28,**

“...**No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.** Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, ‘Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.’”

“On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life? ‘What is written in the Law? He replied, ‘How do you read it?’ He answered: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind,’ and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ “You have answered correctly.’ Jesus replied, ‘Do this and you will live.’”

This was followed by the story of the Good Samaritan, who helped a man attacked by robbers. The brother was the Samaritan who had mercy on the wounded man, rather than the priest and Levite who walked past without helping.

Could you describe love as a hunger and thirst to be with the one you love and to share life with them?

**Nehemiah 9:13-17,**

“You came down on Mount Sinai; you spoke to them from heaven. You gave them regulations and laws that are just and right, and decrees and commands that are good. You made known to them your holy Sabbath and gave them commands, decrees and laws through your servant



Moses. In their hunger, **you gave them bread from heaven and in their thirst you brought them water from the rock; you told them to go in and take possession of the land you had sworn with uplifted hand to give them. But they, our forefathers, became arrogant and stiff-necked, and did not obey your commands. They refused to listen and failed to remember the miracles you performed among them.**

**Matthew 5:5,**

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

What events in your life have caused you to love God more?

**WEDNESDAY**

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**A New Creation**

What does it mean to be a new creation?

**Third paragraph:**

“It is the divine act in which God takes a person who is spiritually dead and breathes spiritual life into him.”

How have you experienced what this means?

- House flipping – renovation
- New direction
- Better understanding
- New purpose
- Higher goals
- Different methods
- Better outcome
- Can't keep doing the same things and expect a different outcome

What about claims that we can make ourselves into a new creation without Christ?

Example could be L. Ron Hubbard, American science fiction writer and founder of “Scientology” – said that, “Man has it within himself to make himself better.” It promises to help you “reach your full potential”. Scientology is defined as a religious system based on the seeking of self knowledge and spiritual fulfillment through graded courses of study and training. But it has been reported by people who have left the church that if you decide to leave the church, any of your family still in the church disconnects from you and never talks to you again, and the church does everything they can to try to destroy your life, your job, the respect others in your community might have for you.



## THURSDAY

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### Final Remarks

#### Galatians 6: 16,

“Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.” The word translated as “Rule” literally refers to a straight rod or bar used by masons or carpenters for measuring. Figuratively, it came to mean rules or standards by which a person evaluates something.

#### Galatians 16: 17,

“Finally, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.”

According to the **SDA Bible Commentary, Vol 6, page 989,**

“...Paul has marks that indicate whose slave he has become, and for him there is no other loyalty than to Christ...The scars Paul had received from his enemies while in the service of his Master spoke most eloquently of his devotion to Christ.”

- What are the “marks,” physical or otherwise, that you have because of your faith in Jesus?
- What has your faith cost you?

## FRIDAY

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### Further Thought

#### Ellen G. White Comments, **The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, page 1113,**

“The cross of Calvary challenges, and will finally vanquish every earthly and hellish power. In the cross all influence centers, and from it all influence goes forth. It is the great center of attraction; for on it Christ gave up His life for the human race. This sacrifice was offered for the purpose of restoring man to his original perfection. Yea, more, it was offered to give him an entire transformation of character, making him more than a conqueror.

“Those who in the strength of Christ overcome the great enemy of God and man, will occupy a position in the heavenly courts above angels who have never fallen.

“Christ declares, ‘I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.’ If the cross does not find an influence in its favor, it creates an influence. Through generation succeeding generation, the truth for this time is revealed as present truth. Christ on the cross was the medium whereby mercy and truth met together, and righteousness and peace kissed each other.

**This is the means that is to move the world.** (MS 56, 1899)”

**Movie, “End of the Spear”.** It depicted missionary men attempting to bring Christ to natives, but the natives killed them all upon arrival. These natives were all about taking revenge on the other tribes around them, so there were no old people in the village, as the other tribes would also take revenge and kill their people. Then the missionary’s wives went to the same people, took someone with them who had come from their own tribe and spoke their language. They did not take revenge on the killing of



their husbands, but helped the natives. **How they won the hearts of the natives was by telling them that when Jesus was speared, he did not spear back.** They understood that.

### **Discussion Questions:**

In light of Paul's statement about having been crucified...to the world (Galatians 6:14):

- What relationship should Christians have with the world today?
- How should Christians relate to issues dealing with the environment, racism, abortion, etc.

I have an issue about legislating even good religious things, using the power of government to legislate morality. When that happened in the "Dark Ages" persecution inevitably happened, as the government/church tried to force others to believe as they did.

### **Consider this:**

- If you don't believe in abortion, don't have one, if you don't believe current TV and movies are good for people, don't watch them, etc. "Vote with your feet".
- Being a part of changing people's heart through being used by the Holy Spirit, so that others won't want to do harmful things to themselves, each other, or the environment.