

THE MAGNETISM OF THE CROSS.

John 12:27-33.

April 9, 2006 Sunday A.M.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. We usually think of a magnet as a toy which picks up nails and other metal objects, but magnets have many important uses. For example, the compasses on ships are based on magnetic principles. These compasses made possible the voyages of men like Columbus, which opened up the New World. On land, magnets generate electric current. The first magnets were stones discovered in an ancient country in Asia Minor called Magnesia. These stones were a type of iron ore that puzzled people by the way they were attracted to metal. It was Dr. William Gilbert who, in 1600 A.D., developed the principles of magnetism that are still regarded today. For example, Dr. Gilbert observed that "like poles of a magnet repel each other, and unlike poles attract each other."
- B. Jesus observed that there is also a magnetism of the cross as well. In John 12:32 He said, "When I am lifted up from the earth, (I) will draw all men to myself."
- C. What is it that gives the cross of Christ such appeal, such magnetism?

I. For one thing, the cross has the magnetism of love.

- A. In the cross of Christ we see the love of Jesus (vv. 27-28a). The cross was an option that Jesus chose not an obligation He was required to meet. It was His love for us that drove Him to the cross (John 15:13).
- B. In the cross we also see the love of the Father.
 - 1. The Father demonstrated His love for His Son by responding to Him (v. 28b).
 - 2. The Father also demonstrates His love for us by revealing Himself (v. 29-30).
 - 3. The cross demonstrates God's love for all of us (Rom. 5:8).
- C. In the first 15 years of his life, our son Ryan had over 30 surgeries. When he was about eight years old, he was in the hospital for another surgery. The medical staff had already given him the "Barney Juice," a purple liquid with something like morphine in it. The medical staff then began to roll his surgical bed to the operating room. As usual, we accompanied him to the two big doors that led to the place of surgery. That is where we stopped, and told him all would be okay for the last time before surgery. This day, as we got to the doors and they opened, he sat up in the bed, looked me in the eyes and pleaded, "Dad, don't let them take me!" At that moment, my heart was broken. I would have done anything to take him off that bed except for the fact he had to have the surgery. That knowledge didn't ease the pain in my heart at all. I just stood there trembling as the doors closed, and he disappeared. That is when I broke down into tears. Shortly after, when I was asking God how such a good love could hurt so much, I realized that he had gone through the same thing. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed: Father, if there is any other way, let this cup pass from me. Translated into the language of a child, "Daddy, don't let them take me." I allowed the surgeons to take my son for his own good. God allowed the crucifiers to take his Son for our good. That is how much God loves us. It has been said that something is worth what someone else is willing to pay. Christ's willingness to give his life shows the value he placed on me.

Tim White, Bronte, Texas.

II. For another thing, the cross has the magnetism of victory.

- A. The cross of Christ marks the defeat and judgment of the unbelieving world (v. 31a). This judgment is self induced by those who reject Jesus as Savior (John 3:18).
- B. The cross of Christ also marks the defeat and judgment of Satan (v. 31b).
 - 1. Paul calls Satan "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2, KJV).
 - 2. Paul further pointed out Satan's defeat in I Corinthians 15:54-57.

C. Jesus emerged from the cross as the victor. This is one of the attractions of the cross of Christ. He is a winner (Victory in Jesus!!)

III. Finally, the cross has the magnetism of forgiveness.

A. The greatest human need is not for food, shelter, or even companionship. Man's greatest need is for forgiveness (Ecclesiastes 7:20 & Romans 3:20).

B. Jesus' death on the cross is God's answer to man's sin (John 3:16).

C. Jesus was lifted up on the cross in two ways.

1. He was lifted up literally (v. 33).

2. He was also lifted up spiritually (3:14-15).

CONCLUSION.

A. A 13-year-old girl fought and lost a long and painful battle with cancer. On the fly leaf of her Bible she had written these words, "The way of the cross may not be easy, but it is the way home."

B. The cross of Christ is magnetic. It has the attraction of love, victory and forgiveness.

C. It can draw you to the cross, too, if you will let it (v. 32b).