

## Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

### Introduction:

- A. Man's greatest problem is sin
  - 1. Separates from God – Rm. 6:23
  - 2. But, Christ died to redeem – Rm. 5:8-10
- B. Thus, two important questions
  - 1. What must I do to be saved?
  - 2. What must I do to stay saved?
    - a. Since Jesus died is there anything left for me to do?
    - b. Implies that I can be lost – Hb. 3:12; II Pt. 2:20,21 – tasted the heavenly gift
- C. So, what must I do to stay saved?
  - 1. Many answers – pray, alms, worship, confess, live right, etc.
  - 2. Bottom line – **stay near the cross!!!!**
  - 3. Why should I stay near the cross?

### I. To Appreciate Our Role in the Church

- A. Cannot talk about the cross without talking about the church
  - 1. two are inseparable – Acts 20:28 – God' people, the saved, purchased!
  - 2. it is true that most of what I do as a Christian is an individual
  - 3. but also collective action
- B. Cannot ignore the local church and collective
  - 1. "one another" passages cannot be ignored, ig.
  - 2. the cross gives meaning to this – it is the "tie that binds our hearts"
    - a. Eph. 2:11-22 – reconcile
    - b. two factions became "fellow citizens". Heirs. Soldiers,
    - c. purchased by the blood of Christ!
  - 3. Christ died to have a church – thus, committed because God is – Tit.2:14

### II. To Resist Temptation

- A. Turn away what Jesus died for
  - 1. Sin is forgetting the price he paid!
    - a. Horror of the cross reminds us of how awful sin is
    - b. Gal. 1:3,4 – deliver us
  - 2. Does this lessen the allurements? It should!
    - a. Gal. 6:14 – "kosmos' mean anything out of harmony with God's work
    - b. Not glory in my own bruised body, not the wooden instrument, but God's redemptive work

- B. More passages-
  1. Rm. 6:4-6,8-11 – how can I crucify him?
  2. How can I put Jesus there again?
  3. Stay near the cross

### III. Helps in my Attitude Toward Others

- A. How can I insist on my rights?
  1. My way – Rm. 14:15; Eph. 4:31,32
    - a. How can I love the cross and insist on destroying the reputation, soul, of my brother for whom Christ died?
    - b. How can I refuse to forgive him? Harbor bitterness
    - c. Disputes arise, folks backbite and gossip – Jesus died for them!
  2. He loves my brother just as much as he loves me.
- B. Stay near the cross

### IV. Cross points to Our High and Noble Purpose

- A. Christ
  1. Paul cant get out of jail – Phil. 4:13
    - a. Circumstance not matter
    - b. Grace and strength to deal with it!
  2. Look at Colossians
    - a. Col. 2:1-13 – hope, full, treasure!
    - b. Col. 3:1-13 – therefore!
    - c. Its about honoring him with our lives!

**Conclusion:** II Cor. 5:17; thus, vs. 7!; II Cor. 4:16-18 – tomorrow ; Mt 6:33 –Stay near the cross and it will remind you of who you are, how special your brother, and your purpose.