
TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

Jesus Christ

DID ALL THAT WAS
NEEDED TO SAVE US.

IT IS *finished!*

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the BIBLE



WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD



A VIEW FROM THE CROSS

Dr. J. Vernon McGee



This article is an excerpt from **"The Cross Through Jesus' Eyes."**

Download the full digital booklet at TTB.org/booklets.

"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Remember when Jesus cried this from His cross? Did you know He was quoting Psalm 22? Follow along with Dr. McGee as we see the events of the cross from Jesus' perspective ... and the ancient Psalms.

Some passages of Scripture are so remarkable I don't feel adequate to deal with them; this is one such passage. Psalm 22 is called the "Psalm of the Cross," because it describes more accurately and minutely the crucifixion of Christ than does any other portion of the Word of God. When we come to Psalm 22, we should take off our spiritual shoes because we're standing on holy ground.

All of the messianic psalms are pictures of Christ. Psalm 22 is like an x-ray penetrating Jesus' thoughts. We see the anguish of His passion, His soul laid bare. The Gospels record the historical fact of His death

and some of the events which attended His crucifixion, but only in Psalm 22 are His thoughts revealed. Many scholars believe the Lord Jesus actually quoted the entire psalm while on the cross. I concur, because the seven last sayings given in the Gospels either appear in this psalm or the psychological background for them is here.

Instead of standing beneath the cross and passively listening to Him utter these seven last sayings, we are going to get up on the cross with Him and view the crucifixion of Christ from a new position—from the cross itself. We will look with Him on those beneath His cross and see what went on in His heart and in His mind as He hung there. We will examine what occurred in His soul as He became the sacrifice for the sins of the world. Because as He was suspended there between heaven and earth, He became the ladder let down from heaven to this earth so we might have a way to God.

FATHER, FORGIVE THEM (Luke 23:34)

Jesus' suffering on the cross was intensified by that brutal mob of hardened spectators beneath Him. Look now through His eyes and see what He saw.

All those who see Me ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, "He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!" –Psalm 22:7, 8

Some criminals have been so detested that they've been taken from jail and lynched by a mob. But while the impromptu execution takes place, most of the mob disperses, as tempers cooled and emotions were assuaged. But not this crowd! I think the lowest thing ever said about religion was said of these Pharisees when the Lord Jesus Christ was dying: "Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there" (Matthew 27:36).

Here is where Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” If He had not said that, this crowd would have committed the unpardonable sin. But they did not—He asked forgiveness for their sin. We know that the centurion in charge of the execution was saved, along with a whole company of Pharisees—including Saul of Tarsus, who probably was in that very crowd.

I THIRST! (John 19:28)

As He is hanging there ready to expire, with excessive perspiration pouring from Him, He suffers the agony of thirst.

My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue clings to My jaws; you have brought Me to the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet. I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. —Psalm 22:15-18

He was crucified naked. It is difficult for us, in this age of nudity and pornography, to comprehend the great humiliation He suffered by hanging nude on the cross. They had taken His garments and gambled for ownership. My friend, He went through it all, crucified naked, that you might be clothed with the righteousness of Christ and stand before God throughout the endless ages of eternity.

“THERE IS *no other name* UNDER HEAVEN
GIVEN AMONG MEN BY WHICH
we must be saved.”

ACTS 4:12

FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT (Luke 23:46)

To me, this is remarkable indeed, because the cross on which the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified was not the shaped cross we see today. We think of a cross made of an upright post with a crosspiece. Nowhere does Scripture so describe it.

The Greek word is *xulon*, which is translated by the English word “cross” or “tree” and simply means a piece of wood. This word *xulon* is mentioned in Revelation 22 as the tree of life. I believe the tree on which Jesus died will be there, alive, throughout the endless ages of eternity, to let you and me know what it cost to redeem us.

We’ve witnessed the sufferings of Christ, and now a radical shift turns our focus to the glory that should follow:

I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You.
—Psalm 22:22

I believe Jesus spoke this entire psalm while He was on the cross. He did not die defeated, for when He reached the very end, He said this is the gospel that will be witnessed to. “I will declare Your name to My brethren.” And I see Peter in the midst of the Sanhedrin saying to them, “There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

MY TURN

WHAT DID JESUS SAY AS HE WAS DYING?

- 1 **Read Psalm 22** beside Matthew 27, Luke 23, and John 19.
- 2 In your Bible, **circle Jesus’ seven final statements.**
 - “*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.*” (Luke 23:34)
 - “*Today you will be with Me in Paradise.*” (Luke 23:43)
 - “*Woman, behold your son!*” (John 19:26)
 - “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*” (Matthew 27:46)
 - “*I thirst!*” (John 19:28)
 - “*It is finished!*” (John 19:30)
 - “*Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.*” (Luke 23:46)
- 3 **Now read Hebrews 12:2** for a glimpse at the bigger picture.
Write a prayer of thanks to Jesus for His sacrifice on the cross for you.

WHAT'S ON YOUR PHONE?



Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE President

What always impresses me when I look back at the growth of THRU the BIBLE over the last decade is the creativity of our ministry partners in their ideas on how to “take the whole Word to the whole world.” We’ve always been committed to partnerships, so when they step up and say, *What about this?* we’ll always listen. We’ll then pray about it and often say, *That’s a great idea—let’s do it.*

Today we have a thriving ministry outlet we don’t talk about much, but it’s really quite amazing how the Lord is using SD card distribution. These tiny devices—little hard drives like what fits in your smart phone or your camera—can be loaded with MP3 files. We can get all or part of THRU the BIBLE on just one card.

Our partners in Canada had a great idea to create over 10,000 of these micro SD cards and distribute them to India’s Home Groups, primarily for use in their phones:

“During the pandemic, people in India’s Home Groups wanted to study the Bible on their own. And even those who are uneducated or illiterate can study the Bible using media players and cell phones. When the crisis is over, people will resume group study without missing anything but the fellowship.

“Scripture clearly says that knowing the Word of God is necessary for personal spiritual growth. Sharing your faith also depends on knowing the Bible. This project plays a vital role in discipling new believers and allows every believer personal, daily time in God’s Word.”



In addition to personal use, these SD cards also get distributed by unique cultural traditions. As it often goes, somebody will get in a taxi and the friendly driver will say, “Give me your SD card”—which often will have music or movies on it—and while you’re traveling in the taxi, he’s playing and copying your SD card. So in our case, when people share their SD card, that taxi driver will copy and distribute THRU the BIBLE!

It’s amazing to see the way God prompts creative options to get His Word out.

It used to be that there was one way to deliver THRU the BIBLE—and that was traditional, terrestrial radio (radio waves broadcast from a land-based station). It was and is still very effective in many regions of the world. But as other options develop, we can pursue delivery systems to match how people are communicating.

Pray for this creative, strategic effort in India. Ask God to exponentially multiply its impact as people share God’s Word and THRU the BIBLE with their friends and family ... and taxi drivers.

UPDATE

Of the 11,265 cards to be distributed to India’s Home Groups by April 2022, over 8,000 have now been handed out. In 2021, this distribution played a strategic role in starting 2100 of 2900 new groups. Likely many more undocumented groups have started and are growing.



“PLEASE HELP!”

Family is the building block of Muslim society. Any action that might bring shame or dishonor to the family unit can be met with a strong and swift response.

Today we pray our way through Morocco and lift up listeners like Fares who wants to learn about Jesus but fears his parents’ reaction. Here’s his story:

“I really want to understand who Jesus is. All you talk and teach about in your program has my heart and mind in turmoil. I’ve started to doubt my own religion. At the beginning, I took my questions to the Sheikhs. They told me to stop asking and that because I’m of a young age, I should not go deep into such issues. Doubt started to grow.

“I’ve started to listen more and more to your episodes. Although many things I cannot understand, many others make sense and are logical. Please help! I think I want to become a Christian, but my

father will be angry and not allow it. Will you answer my questions and lead me on the right path?”

Today as we pray for Fares and others like him to hear and respond to the gospel, let’s also pray for THRU the BIBLE’s Arabic team who answer their emails, texts, and phone calls. Ask God to give them His wisdom and discernment as they counsel those who are making the life-changing and potentially dangerous decision to follow Jesus Christ.

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we travel the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. Join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

GO TO TTB.ORG/PRAY TO SIGN UP.

Celebrate

THE BEST DAY OF THE YEAR!

AS WE STUDY THE WHOLE WORD OF GOD, WE SEE THAT EVERYTHING HINGES ON THIS—JESUS’ DEATH AND RESURRECTION.

It’s the most important event in the history of the world and the truth that makes your life in Christ possible today.

Spend a quiet moment thanking the Lord Jesus for His sacrifice and for the gift of your salvation.

Make this your most important hour of the year, too.

That I may know Him

AND THE *power* OF HIS RESURRECTION,
AND THE *fellowship* OF HIS SUFFERINGS,
BEING CONFORMED TO HIS DEATH.

PHILIPPIANS 3:10





Dr. McGee calls it “the best day of the year.”

We celebrate Jesus Christ’s resurrection from the dead this month, the most pivotal event in history and, yes, in our lives. Recently I was reminded of this glorious day when we got this letter from Manuel in Tucson, Arizona:

Nobody else in history ever died, laid for days in a tomb, then got up, appeared to hundreds, and left the earth, never to die again. If there was nothing else to the story of Jesus Christ, then this alone would change everything. **But the other day I was listening to Dr. McGee’s study in Galatians and what I learned changed everything for me for the rest of my life.**

Galatians 2:20: *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”*

Thank you, *Thru the Bible*, for planting this reality into my life. **Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross was made for love and it was made for life. I live today and for eternity with Him because I died with Christ and now live in Him by faith.** I don’t know exactly all that this means but will find out in heaven.

Thanks, Manuel, for reminding us of resurrection truth that is so beautiful and deep that it will take a lifetime to unpack.

Let’s celebrate today what Jesus Christ’s resurrection means to us every single day of the year. Thank you for your partnership in “taking the whole Word to the whole world.” God’s Word changes everything!

Grateful for your partnership,

Gregg Harris
THRU the BIBLE, President

J E S U S I N

John

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

John often told us about an incident or miracle from Jesus, then he told us how Jesus taught about it. **In the Gospel of John, when Jesus says, “I AM,” He’s telling us about God.**

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” -John 8:12

Jesus sheds a whole lot of light on who God is! He takes the commonplace and uses them to speak of the remarkable.

- **“I am** the bread of life” (6:35).
- **“I am** the light of the world” (8:12).
- **“I am** the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved” (10:9).
- **“I am** the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep” (10:11).
- **“I am** the resurrection and the life” (11:25).
- **“I am** the way, the truth, and the life” (14:6).
- And finally, **“I am** the vine, you are the branches” (15:5).

In the Old Testament, Jehovah God said, “I AM WHO I AM” (Exodus 3:14).

Jesus reveals here that He is “the light of the world”—probably the highest statement He’s made about Himself so far. He just exposed the sin of the scribes and Pharisees who brought the guilty woman to Him. They were just as guilty, and they had to run.

First John 1:5 tells us “God is light.” He’s holy, righteous, and just. Just as the sun is physical light, the Lord Jesus Christ is spiritual light. Just as we have enough sense to turn on a light in a dark room, any sinner, though he be a fool, can come into the presence of Jesus Christ.

Jesus promises that whoever follows Him will not walk in darkness. The religious leaders scoffed at Jesus’ claim. They understood very little of what He was saying. **First Corinthians 15:47-48 explains that human knowledge today can be understood by anyone who has a human nature. But divine knowledge must be loved to be understood, and only the Spirit of God can take the things of Christ and show them to us.**

Jesus summarizes His argument with a sober word: “If you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24).

ON THE ROAD

Greetings FROM THE BIBLE BUS



ON THE SPANISH BIBLE BUS

“I have only been listening to you for 15 days, but my heart is exploding with delight. **Hearing the Word of God explained for the first time is life altering. I have decided to make several big changes and devote everything I am and have to God.** Thank you for expanding my thinking, and the Lord for opening my heart to all that He wants for me.”

–Hector | **Costa Rica**

“I follow your biblical studies online. It’s been a year since I became a Christian by listening, and now I study with you daily. **Understanding God’s Word is a big blessing in my life.**”

–A Text from Hugo | **Spain**

“Thank God I have been on the path of truth for eight months, and I am doing very well. **I educate myself through your studies and am growing closer to God.**”

–Martin

“I thank you very much for your work. I found your radio programs some months ago, and **I decided to start studying the Bible with a friend. We started in Luke and with the help of the Lord we will continue all the way through.**”

–Sofia



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