



Piecemakers Class Schedule

April — June 2017

Without the Cross

(Excerpt from "Voices of America's Prisoners" — March 4, 2008)

Without the cross, Christianity is just another religion.

The first mention of the cross says this, "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me is not worthy of me."

The second mention of the cross says, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me." So the key words here are "follow Me" and "deny yourself".

How about, save thyself and come down from the cross. I would like to add, "Save thyself and listen to another gospel."

Paul the apostle made sure the gospel of the cross was not perverted. 1 Corinthians 1:17 — "God sent me not to baptize but to preach the gospel; not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."

Now, what is foolishness to some, is salvation and the power of the resurrection to others.

Ephesians 2:16 says we are reconciled to God by the death of the cross. The Christians have been taught that Jesus did it all. Nobody will come to God without the crucifixion and Philippians 2:8 says that He (Jesus) humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Without the cross there is no heaven. Everyone wants to go to heaven. A place of our imaginations but nobody wants

to go by the way of Gethsemane. Paul did not weep often. In other words he was not the weeping prophet. However, he said this, "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ." That my dear friends is the dilemma of our country. Christianity, which was called to preserve our country has become just another religion. Our corrupt government reflects the corrupt church. All hot air stirring up God's wrath.

And then Hebrews 12 has the coup de grâce. "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith who Himself, for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame." That shame of the cross humbles us and changes our elements. The cross removes our grave clothes of pride, self righteousness and arrogance. The cross sets us free from self.

Go and preach the gospel was given to the disciples after they had their Gethsemane experience. The cross is such a stigma to the Christians, they, to justify their sins, call us a cult the same as they did our Lord.

"This gospel must be preached to all the world and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14

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