

Crimson & White Connection

A ministry of prayer and encouragement to "High School, College, & Singles" (& others, too) on Values + Character + Relationships + the Christian Life
Now resources and some back issues available at www.CrimsonWhite.org

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Crimson & White? What's this?

It started with 37 college students. in 1998. Now, in the 23rd year of issues, less than 10% of the mailing list are "students" ages 14 to 24. About 40% are ... we'll just say "over 30" in the database, including several 80+ers. About 1/3 of our over ~900 print copies go into prisons in 24 states (9/1/20 count), a direction we never expected this to go. But "the spiritual life," and values are not age or marital status or gender or life situational specific, they are universal. -- Topics are character, values, spiritual life - "walk the walk, not just talk the talk" - relationships and more ... and some fun.

The theology position is "conservative," i.e. Jesus is God's only Son, eternal, born of a virgin, sinless, crucified, died, and risen, and is the only way to eternal life. We are free to choose Him. He has told us to be holy and that includes behaviors such as: sex outside of marriage is wrong. Jesus said it comes down to 'love God and love your neighbor' (Matthew 22:37-40).

If you base your trust for entrance into Heaven in Jesus, God's Son, and His death and resurrection on your behalf, then your crimson stains are made white as wool. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. There is no other way (John 14:6). If you admit that you can not reach God's standard, are repentant and sorry for your short fall (sin) and rebellion against Him and have asked Him to forgive you, then He has forgiven you. If you are truly repentant, then there will be evidence of that in your actions, your life. - - If the "religion police" were to arrest you, would you be turned loose for "lack of evidence"? Or would the evidence of your actions convict you of being a Christian?

You WILL BE and ARE a slave! But you can CHOOSE your master! CHOOSE God today. John 3:16 is true. Accept no substitute!

If you have chosen to accept Jesus as Lord of your life, either the first time or again, we would like to know so that we can pray for you and encourage you. Write or call us.

To subscribe, FREE, and get several issues of the **Crimson & White Connection** all year long, contact us at RDymmel@aol.com or at 4401 Wild Oak Ln, Greensboro NC 27406 U.S.A. (The C&WC goes by email across 18 time zones from Australia to Sweden.
And 1/3 of printed copies go to prisons)

April 10, 2022 - v25n03 Denial ... or Jesus Freak... or...

By Dr. Richard R. Dymmel, Ed.D., (c) 4/10/2006

In John, Chapters 18, 19, 20 and 21 is the Easter story. The tragedy. The pain. The rejection. ... And the glorious conclusion... Well, no, it isn't a conclusion. It's kind of like a book that ends with an unfinished sentence that continues in the sequel. Or a TV show that ends with a "To be continued" on the screen because it will pick up next week and go on.

The focus of the Easter story is not about crucifixion and the death of Jesus. The focus is on the resurrection! But even there that's not the end of the story. As the "Gospels" close, the book of Acts open with Jesus leaving. The disciples are standing there looking up at the sky and the angel says, 'Hey! What are you doing just staring at the sky. This same Jesus that left will come back!' (Acts 1:11, Rich's paraphrase). As Paul Harvey would say, "And now the rest of the story..." Well, the "rest of the story" includes 'What are you doing? Are you just standing there staring, or are you going to get on with DOing what Jesus said to do?'

In the Easter musical-drama at our church, I get to play Judas. - Hmm. I wonder why she picked me? ... Okay. Anyway... - We need to read scripture carefully and not just grabbing bits and pieces. The classic is the guy (it is told as a guy because... I don't think I want to go there) who decides to let God talk to him through the Bible. So he just lets it fall open to a page and points. His finger falls on Matthew 27:5 (This is where Judas repents of his betrayal, tries to return the 30 pieces of silver, and then ...) "And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself." (KJV) He closes his Bible and lets it fall open to another page and points his finger and it lands on Luke 10:37 - "Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise" (KJV) - See the danger of taking just little pieces out of context? - What if he had happened on Deuteronomy 15:17 as the second verse? ("And also unto thy maidservant thou shalt do likewise.") God doesn't tell us to be mass murders. That conflicts with the rest of the book, the whole theme, the principles elsewhere. - We had a pastor who often said, "A text out of context is a pretext." Don't interpret things out of their context. - Where was I? ...

The Easter story has all this gore and disappointments. Failures. Betrayals. - Judas thinks of his own pocket, - 'Hey, they'll pay me, they rough him up a bit, harass him, in a couple days he's okay, and I'm that much richer.' - Then when he sees the result, not what he expected, he repents, but he is now, he thinks, partly responsible for Jesus being condemned to be crucified. This is not pretty at all. And kind of like in Macbeth, he's trying to remove the blood from his hand by returning the cash. Doesn't work. Can't deal with the guilt. And he hangs himself. - Hey don't be too hard on him. He had a little "I" trouble, like we all do at some time or another. And it says he did repent (Matthew 27:3). The problem is that, then as now, we can't control what happens next once we do something. Things sometimes "get out of hand." "I didn't plan for that to happen." - Peter wants to see what is happening. He mingles in the crowd. Is identified as one of the "Jesus guys" (John 18) and adamantly denies it! Three times! Not what he planned and said he'd do. But the pressure!

And then is the crucifixion itself. I've read a little bit. I saw the Mel Gibson movie. A crucifixion is intended to be a publicly humiliating, brutal, very slow and painful death.

*** Don't you hate having to find the rest of articles? Lucky for you it's just over on page 2***

The pictures... It's worse. It is awful. And Jesus did this for you (and me). He did this so that He wouldn't have to spend Eternity without YOU (and me). He paid a debt He didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay.

Know one of my favorite characters and short blips? It's Luke 23: 39-43. The one thief, all he does is acknowledge that Jesus doesn't deserve when he's getting and says, 'Remember me when you go to your kingdom.' Not some eloquent prayer. No good works. Wasn't baptized (I've had people want to argue about that sort of stuff). Probably wasn't a guy they saw regularly at synagogue. All he did was acknowledge that Jesus was perfect and wasn't being crucified for anything he had done. Jesus took him just as he was, a mess, and with what little he knew and with what little he could do he acknowledged Jesus. And that was enough. He didn't have to get a 2 year perfect attendance pin at Sunday School. No test. Didn't get baptised in 48 inch deep water (someone told me that one), and some TV preacher recently said, 'Have to be baptised 3 times...' - And Jesus says, "Don't worry, I will. Today you will join me in paradise." (Luke 23:43 *The Message*). - There is hope for me! Oh oh! Since I know more, there might be more expected of me. Since I have more opportunity, I have more expected of me. Guess I can't be just standing around gazing up at the sky; I need to get to work.

I've read the "Jesus Freak..." books. I used to use the stories in them to start class when I taught in Christian schools. These are stories of people through the centuries that took this Jesus stuff seriously. Seriously enough to die for what they believed. There was a man that they were to put on trial in Afghanistan for having changed religion from Islam to Christian. The penalty? Death if convicted. Through pressures, he was released (3/26/06) and was given asylum in Italy. Abdul Rahman, prior to his case being overturned in a statement to reporters said, **"I am serene. I have full awareness of what I have chosen. If I must die, I will die."** Man, this is putting your life on the line. This guy is serious about Jesus! But this is Afghanistan, the other side of the Earth. Doesn't happen here in the U.S., or does it. I am reminded of Cassie Bernall in Columbine High School in Colorado; with a shotgun placed to her head she was asked, "Do you believe in God?" She said, "Yes," and he pulled the trigger. - What would you do? Can you "take the heat" for being a Christian?

Here's a couple books I highly recommend: *How to Live Like a Jesus Freak* and *Jesus Freak II Revolutionaries*. If your soul and life is "thirsty," I recommend Max Lucado's *Come Thirsty* that may help you find Jesus, the water for your soul. -

Have you ever dreaded being identified as a Jesus freak? Be proud if someone calls you a Jesus freak." Say "Thank you. I'm so glad it shows."

In Christ, Rich

Do you have a relationship with God where you know He has accepted you just as you are? A relationship like with a loving father? If not, call me at 336-674-7564. Or call 1-888-NEED-

**Whatever your lot in life...
build something on it.**



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While the hopping and hiding are fun...please...
don't lose the message of Hope from His rising!
born again to a living hope through the resurrection 1 Pet 1:3

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The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



**The First Annual Empty Tomb Dash
and John defeats Peter John 20:1-4**



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He IS risen !!

He is not here! He is risen...just as He said!! Come...see! Mat 28:6

