



PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104*

July 10, 2016

Three Crucifixions

by Frank Himmel

"But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14).

A right relationship with God may be viewed as the product of three crucifixions. They are...

Jesus Christ Crucified

Paul said he would glory in that. And why not? It reflects, as nothing else could, the love, mercy, and grace of God. It also expresses His righteousness. God cannot just ignore or dismiss sin. When He sent Jesus to the cross, displaying Him publicly as a propitiation in His blood, it demonstrated His righteousness in passing over sins (Romans 3:25-26). Jesus' crucifixion is the means of our salvation.

Because we have viewed the cross this way for twenty centuries, we may forget how shameful these events were when they occurred. The Romans reserved crucifixion for the worst offenders. The cross carried the same stigma then that the electric chair or lethal injection does now. That is why preaching a crucified Messiah was such a stumbling block (1 Corinthians 1:23). Nevertheless, given its unique significance, Paul would boast in Jesus' crucifixion.

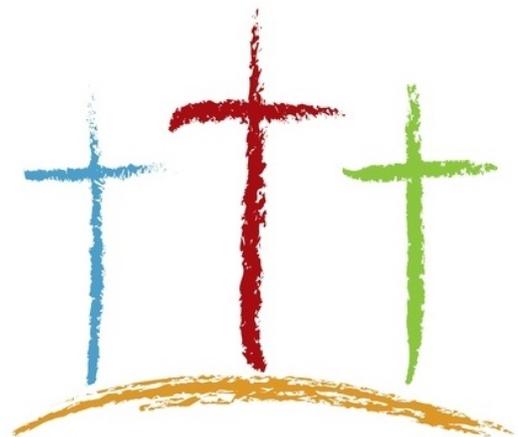
The World Crucified to Me

While Jesus' crucifixion is critical to our salvation, there is another that is just as important. The change we undergo in conversion amounts to the ending of one life and beginning of another (Colossians 2:13). Thus, the New Testament often talks about putting off the old man and putting on the new. It tells us to "put to death" certain kinds of conduct (Colossians 3:5ff).

In Christ, the world is crucified to us. Its priorities — such as getting ahead, making money, and enjoying every imaginable pleasure — are no longer ours. Its measures of conduct are replaced by God's standard. We don't look, talk, think, or act like the world. That way of life is dead to us. "Now those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24).

I Crucified to the World

When you crucify the world by rejecting it, the world will in turn crucify you. Oh, they may not nail you to a cross, but they will surely regard you as an outcast. ▶



2 + 2 = 5

by Frank Himmel

Of course it doesn't. But haven't you heard the expression of people putting two and two together and getting five? It refers to jumping to a wrong conclusion based on minimal circumstantial evidence. It's very easy to do.



Hannah was barren. She was greatly troubled by her condition. Her husband, Elkanah, tried to comfort her but had little success. Hannah prayed earnestly about her affliction. She even vowed that if the Lord would give her a child she would devote him to the Lord all his days.

Eli the priest was watching her pray. "As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she was drunk. Then Eli said to her, 'How long will you make yourself drunk? Put away wine from you'" (1 Samuel 1:13-14). Moving lips plus no words equals drunkenness.

How embarrassed Eli must have been when godly Hannah humbly corrected him, explaining, "No, my

lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the Lord. Do not consider your maid-servant a worthless woman, for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation" (vv. 14-15). Likely Eli wanted to crawl under the altar, so to speak. All he could do was express his desire that God would grant her request.

Beware of jumping to conclusions and making the accompanying accusations. Two plus two equals four, not five. ■

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Jesus warned that the world will reject us for the same reason it rejected Him and therefore treat us the same way it treated Him (John 15:18-21).

Do not be surprised when people call you a bigot or self-righteous for standing for the truth on a moral issue; when your rightly motivated actions are purposefully put in a bad light; when you are mocked or ridiculed; when you are left out; when you are not treated honestly in things related to your faith. These things merely reflect you being crucified to the world.

Earlier in Galatians, Paul described his life this way: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who 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 up for me" (2:20). ■

Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	David Gray	Howard Moore	Mark Clifton
SONG LEADER	Bruce Williams	Greg Winget	Albert Lee Harrison
OPENING PRAYER	Jason Chandler	J B Williams	
LORD'S SUPPER			
BREAD	Paul Richmond	Paul Richmond	
CUP	David Gray	David Gray	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Adam Gibson		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Jason Chandler
CLOSING PRAYER	Don Rapp	John Baucom	Ron Cunningham