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**Deny the Cross's Demands:** Jesus said that in order to be His disciple one must be a cross-bearer, daily (Luke 9:23). Just as Jesus was compelled to bear His own cross through the winding streets of Jerusalem, His followers must bear theirs. His cross-bearing is our pattern. This may involve the loss of one's "father, mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also..." (Luke 14:26). To say, as above, that no works of ours merit our salvation is not to say that there are no works to do, no sacrifices to be made. We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8), but the faith that does not work is not saving faith (James 2:14). Paul wished to live his life in conformity with Christ's death (Philippians 3:10; Colossians 1:24). And so must we or, by denying its demands, we make void the cross.

Conclusion: "God forbid that we should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." (Galatians 6:14). By glorying in anything else before God or men we make the cross void.

--Don Bassett, Christianity Magazine

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**"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6**

### Consider What Jesus Did

He descended that might ascend.

He became poor that we might become rich.

He was born that we might be born again.

He became a servant that we might become sons.

He had no home that we might have a home in heaven.

He was hungry that we might be fed.

He was stripped that we might be clothed.

He was forsaken that we might not be forsaken.

He was sad that we might become glad.

He was bound that we might go free.

He was a sin offering that we might be made righteous.

He died that we might live.

--Bulletin Digest

**ELDERS:** Doug Driver  
Johnny Felker

**DEACONS:** Ralph Brown  
Mark Claypool



### Service Times

**SUNDAY**

**Bible Study—9:00 am**

**Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm**

**WEDNESDAY**

**Bible Study 7:00 pm**

# Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

**Perry Heights church of Christ**  
423 Donelson Pike  
Nashville, TN 37214  
(615) 883-3118

*"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"*  
Heb. 10:24

April 26, 2009

### How We Make the Cross Void

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not in wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made void" (1 Corinthians 1:17). Along with Paul, we may wish never to render the cross of Christ ineffective. But we may do that very thing if we:

**Deny the Cross's Superiority to Human Wisdom:** Paul preached in the Greek world of the first century, A.D. It was full of the hollow sophistry of third-rate philosophers whose vacuous thoughts were clothed in yards and yards of eloquent verbiage. But his preaching was not "with enticing words of man's wisdom" (1 Corinthians 2:4). He plainly depicted the cross of Christ in all its scandalous ugliness - and all its perennial soul-saving glory - minus fancy phrases and foggy philosophy. He knew the "power of God unto salvation" was the gospel of the cross, nothing else (Romans 1:16-17). Preaching anything else makes the cross void.

**Deny the Cross's Saving Power:** Some Christians are frightened because they think they cannot do enough good to merit salvation. Others are quite happy because they think they can. Both are on the wrong track. They need to sing anew, with understanding, the words of the great old hymn, "Rock of Ages": "In my hand no price I bring, simply to thy cross I cling." It is not "by works of righteousness which we have done" that we entertain the hope of salvation (Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8). Nor is it by the blood of sacrificial animals (Hebrews 10:4). Nor is it even by the offering of our own life's blood (Hebrews 5:1-3). To compare any of these with the real price of our salvation, the blood of the cross, is to make that cross void (Hebrews 9:22-28).

**Deny the Cross's Reality:** "It is appointed unto men once to die" (Hebrews 9:27). The idea of the word *once* is once only. And so it is when the New Testament uses the word to speak of the work of Christ on the cross. There was one "offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10,12,14). The price was paid in full for our sins, just once, two thousand years ago, on the cross! Any effort at supplemental payment makes the cross void.

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# Preacher's Pen points

## The Fruit of Moral Excellence



*"...in your faith supply moral excellence..." (2 Pet. 1:5).*

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### Pinpointing the meaning of "arete"

Consider these verses: Isaiah 43:21; 2 Pet. 1:3; Phil. 4:8

"Arete" refers to that \_\_\_\_\_ of living that makes us praiseworthy to God and winsome to others.

"Arete" is a general term for "good and correct \_\_\_\_\_ in Christians." (DNTT)

### Living out the fruit of "arete"

*Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior \_\_\_\_\_ among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation. (1 Pet. 2:11-12)*

#### Abstaining from \_\_\_\_\_

*For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the \_\_\_\_\_, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. (1 Pet. 4:3)*

#### Showing \_\_\_\_\_ for those in authority over us (1 Pet. 2:13, 18; 3:1)

\_\_\_\_\_ yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution (1 Pet. 2:13)

Showing \_\_\_\_\_ to those who need us (1 Pet. 3:8-9)

To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, \_\_\_\_\_, and humble in spirit; (1 Pet. 3:8)

#### Showing \_\_\_\_\_ toward those who might mistreat us (1 Pet. 3:9, 2:19-20)

*not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a \_\_\_\_\_ instead (1 Pet. 3:9).*

**God has given us every reason to be fruitful. Are we living in moral excellence?**

### Remember in Prayer:

#### The Sick:

**Xenna Gooch** is still having some problems with the regulation of medications being used to treat her arterial blockages and those being used to treat her blood pressure.

**Alice Beard** is doing well after having cataract surgery last week. She will have surgery on the other eye in a couple of weeks.

**Richard Keller** is at home being treated for pneumonia.

**Burton Brown**, Bettye's brother who was undergoing treatment for lung cancer, is undergoing radiation treatment for cancer that has metastasized to his brain.

**Lucy Karnes**, Martha Felker's sister, has a perforated colon and is home from the hospital. Doctors are evaluating further treatment options.

Continue to remember those recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness: **Brownie Spicer, Karen Shelton, Cecelia O'Brien, Carolyn Lowder, Neal Smith, Ronald Miller** (Larry Miller's father), **Johnny Adams** (Anita Carman's uncle), **Ernestine Reed and Louis Mullen**.

### News & Notes:

--**Group 1** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

--We are happy to announce that **Bill Faulkner** has expressed a desire to worship with the Perry Heights congregation! Bill's address is 4209 Valley Grove Dr., Hermitage, TN 37076, telephone 423-3135. This information will be in the new directory which will be published in the near future.

--Draft copies of the **directory** are in the lobby for each member to review. If any of the information we have is incorrect, please make any needed changes. Remember to check the birthday section to be sure we have your correct birth date.

--**Grace Claypool** was baptized last Sunday night. We rejoice in her decision to obey the gospel!

--**Calendars & Assignment Sheets** for May are available in the lobby.