

Barry *But He Died - Sacrificed* *70-2705*
from rock *Swain Post*
Bay Area Crusade
Oakland Coliseum, Oakland, California
Sunday, October 26, 1997 (4 pm; closing meeting)

THE OFFENSE OF THE CROSS

ILL: Subaru automobile ad:

- "Volvo says all-wheel drive can
save your soul.

- "Subaru says, welcome to
heaven."

- But I want to tell you today
that God is the One Who will
welcome you to Heaven

- and there is only one way your
soul can be saved

Mr. Horn - Mr. Grubbs
Rick Monahan
Lain

Cipriano Teller
Jeff Anderson
Scott Lavin

2705
Offense...2

-- by the death of Jesus Christ
-- in your place
-- on the cross
-- paying the penalty that
should be yours.

TEXT:

-- Galatians 5:11

"And I, brethren, if I yet
preach [works], why do I yet
suffer persecution? Then is the
offense of the cross ceased."

INTRODUCTION:

- The expression "the offense
of the cross" sounds
strange to modern ears.

ILL: Crosses on our churches

- embossed on our Bibles
- ornament around neck
- emblem of art and poets

- This is fine

- but it has become
sentimental

- with a certain romantic interest
in the cross.

- But it really stands for
 - an "offense"
 - and a "stumbling
block"
 - and a "scandal"

ILL: The cross is an offense to all
that mankind prides itself on

— morality

— because it tells us our
work cannot justify us

— to our philosophy

— because its appeal is to
faith and not to reason

— to our culture

— because its truths are
revealed to babes

~~—~~ to our will

~~—~~ because it calls for
unconditional surrender

~~—~~ to our pride

~~—~~ because it shows the
exceeding sinfulness of the
human heart

~~—~~ to ourselves

~~—~~ because it tells us we must
be born again

ILL: Almost insulting to Nicodemus
when Jesus told him he must be
born again.

Isaiah, with prophetic
vision, said:

"There is no beauty that we
should desire him"

(Isaiah 53:2).

Paul, living after Christ

found that the cross
provoked people's
scorn and aroused
their antagonism.

Christ is not always attractive
to the human heart.

When Paul held up Christ, and
Him crucified

many were offended

and turned away in
contempt and rage.

1. THE CROSS OF CHRIST POINTS A
FINGER AND SAYS: YOU ARE A SINNER

1. Herod

— immorality

2. Caiaphas

— pride, cold, crafty, wisdom

3. Pilate

— fear, cowardice

4. Judas

— covetous

ILL: When Paul came before

Governor Felix

the burning message of the
Cross condemned Felix so
much that he trembled, and
said:

"When I have a convenient
season, I will call for
thee" (Acts 24:25).

Any time is convenient when God
is calling!

Felix was close; yet so far

ILL: Governor Festus said:

- You are "mad"

ILL: King Agrippa said: "Almost thou
persuadest me to be a
Christian."

- The Cross has come down
through all the centuries

- passing its unfaltering
judgment upon people's

- vanities

- pride

- racism

~~—~~ hate
~~—~~ injustice
~~—~~ greed
~~—~~ and lusts and
self-indulgent
pleasures.

~~—~~ Racism — Women in War

~~—~~ The Cross says to the world

~~—~~ "You're a sinner."

~~—~~ It becomes a conscience to
the world.

— The Scripture says "Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

— The Cross throws light on their evil deeds.

2. THE CROSS IS AN OFFENSE BECAUSE

BLOOD WAS SHED THERE

— Religion of blood

~~—~~ Blood means life

ILL: Toronto, 2 years ago

~~—~~ The Scripture says "The
life of the flesh is in the
blood" (Leviticus 17:11).

~~—~~ Some people do not like a
"blood" religion.

~~—~~ What is the blood in the Bible?

1. It is the blood of covering

Romans 3:25 "Whom God hath
set forth to be a
propitiation through faith
in his blood, to declare
his righteousness for the
remission of sins that are
past."

2. It is the blood of redemption

Revelation 5:9 "And they
sung a new song, saying,
Thou art worthy to take the
book, and to open the seals
thereof:

for thou wast slain, and hast
redeemed us to God by thy
blood out of every kindred,
and tongue, and people, and
nation."

3. It is the blood of forgiveness

— Hebrews 9:22 "And almost
all things are by the law
purged with blood; and
without shedding of blood
is no remission."

4. It is the blood of reconciliation

— Ephesians 2:13 "But now in
Christ Jesus ye who
sometimes were far off are
made nigh by the blood of
Christ."

5. It is the blood of justification

~~—~~ Romans 5:9 "justified by
his blood, we shall be
saved from wrath through
him."

6. It is the blood of peace

~~—~~ Colossians 1:20 We have
"peace through the blood of
his cross."

7. It is the blood of entrance to
God's ear in prayer

Hebrews 10:19 "Having
therefore, brethren,
boldness to enter into the
holiest by the blood of
Jesus."

8. It is the blood of cleansing

— 1 John 1:7 "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

ILL: A church father:

Martin Luther

— was once reminded by the
devil of his many sins

— the devil listed them

-- "Is that all?" asked Luther

— "No, there are more," sneered
Satan

— "Many more!"

— "Is that all?"

- "Yes, and now what?" asked
the devil.

- "Now," said Luther, "write
beneath them all:

- the blood of Jesus
Christ cleanseth
from all sin."

3. THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS AN OFFENSE
BECAUSE IT SETS FORTH AN IDEAL OF
LIFE

- Jesus said, "If any man
will come after me, let him
deny himself, and take up
his cross, and follow me"
(Matthew 16:24).

- Christ demands that we live
a life of self-crucifixion.

— Many chafe at the restraint
of a life like Christ's.

— We refuse to give up what
we know His Cross condemns.

ILL: The hunger in the world

-- poverty

-- injustice

-- race

— We refuse to take up our cross
and follow Him.

- Jesus told us we must bear
the cross.

- It is evident that many
want the Christ of the
Cross

- who will not accept
the Cross of the
Christ.

~~—~~ We want the blessings of
Christianity

~~—~~ without sharing the
toils and sacrifices
that are involved.

~~—~~ The offense of the Cross
often reaches a point of
opposition:

~~—~~ "They will deliver you up
to the councils"
(Matthew 10:17).

-- "They will scourge you in
their [churches]" (v.17).

-- "ye shall be brought before
governors and kings for my
sake" (v.18).

-- "a man's foes shall be they
of his own household" (v.36)

-- "all that will live godly
in Christ Jesus shall
suffer persecution"
(2 Timothy 3:12).

~~—~~ Crucifixion has the feature
of loneliness.

~~—~~ It means, many times, to go
outside the city wall

~~—~~ outside the camp

~~—~~ with Him

~~--~~ go alone

~~—~~ and often die alone.

~~—~~ Crucifixion is painful

- It is neither popular nor
pleasant for the old self
to die

- but that is the road of the
Christ-life.

- No more "I" but Christ
liveth in me.

4. THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS AN OFFENSE
BECAUSE IT CLAIMS TO BE THE POWER OF
GOD UNTO SALVATION

- It makes this claim without
an alternative
- It demands from everyone
 - as their first duty
 - to get right with
God.

~~-~~ Preach ritualism

~~-~~ preach works

~~-~~ preach ordinances

~~-~~ and the offense of the
Cross will cease.

~~-~~ The offense of the Cross
arises chiefly from the
fact that the Cross
condemns every other way of
salvation.

ILL: Tradition says the door to
Noah's Ark was shaped like
a cross.

- Come to the Cross tonight
for forgiveness
- cleansing
- healing
- and new life.

ILL: I once read that somewhere
in Berlin there was a
monument

-- woman sinking down before a
wayside cross upon which
was the figure of the
Savior.

-- Woman's figure suggested
one who had sought
everywhere for refuge and
cleansing
-- but in vain.

-- Now she comes at last
-- after the wasted years and
misspent opportunities
-- to Him who is the
refuge of all weary
and distressed
souls.