by Rev. Donald M. Clark

NOTHING BUT THE CROSS

Text: "I Resolved That While I Was With You I Would Think of Nothing but Jesus Christ—Christ Nailed to the Cross." I Cor. 2:2.

"Nothing but the Cross!" says this most princely of all Christian missionaries, as he

writes the church he had founded at Corinth, and he knows whereof he speaks! For only the Cross, that stark Cross over against the Judean sunset, can humble our human pride to the point where we become our destined selves. Consider, therefore, the humbling power of the Cross.

A man whose Christian life has borne abundant fruitage gave his testimony somewhat as follows:

I never realized my need of forgiveness till I' full fronted the Cross of Christ, That Cross, it was, that thrust me through and through like a lance. It winnowed the chaff from mind and heart. It changed the center of gravity in my life from self to God. In the humbling power of the Cross lies our true power.

In the second place, there is the healing, transfiguring, sustaining power of the Cross, so needed in our day! Its peace is a dynamic peace. Its passivity, one of alertness. When the secret of its blessedness is whispered into our anxious and troubled hearts, it marks the end of our poor human strivings. At that point the spirit of the Crucified Himself dwells in us, and we are whole again.

And then, think of this: Only from the Cross of Christ streams the reconciling power that can mend and heal our broken and sundered humanity. Rome with all her military power and pomp, and Greece for all her boasted knowledge and sophistication, cannot accomplish this feat. They stand staggered before it. If they and their modern counterpart, the proud technology and scientific progress of our day, could have performed that miracle of a reborn and united humanity, surely by this time they would have succeeded. But the might and power that can maim and kill and destroy and divide stand, helpless before so superhuman a task. Nothing but the Cross possesses the power of a for-giving creative, outgoing Love, which alone is sufficient.

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