

# NEAR THE CROSS

**Hymns for Worship, #154**



# Introduction

- ▶ Tonight, we examine another song we sing from time to time.
- ▶ Written by Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915). Composed by William H. Doane (1832-1915).  
The tune was composed first then submitted to Crosby for lyrics.
- ▶ This song reminds us to cherish the cross – NOT the wood (or as an icon), but what was accomplished because of Jesus on that cross.
- ▶ **Galatians 6:14**

# Vs. 1 – Accomplished at the cross

- ▶ *Jesus, keep me near the cross*
- ▶ This song is written as a request (a prayer?). Similar to many of the psalms.
- ▶ The cross is at the center of our faith.

## **Hebrews 10:11-14**

- ▶ If we are to remain faithful, it will be because we are near the cross. Daily do we think about Jesus and His work for us?

# Vs. 1 – Accomplished at the cross

- ▶ *There a precious fountain*
- ▶ **Zechariah 13:1** – prophetic hope of restoration through the sacrifice of Jesus.
- ▶ *Free to all a healing stream*
- ▶ **Revelation 22:1-2** – a river flowing from the throne of God
  - Hebrews 9:12-14** – the cleansing blood of Jesus
  - 1 John 1:7** – His blood cleanses...

# Vs. 1 – Accomplished at the cross

- ▶ *Flows from Calvary's mountain*
- ▶ **Luke 23:33** – the only mention of Calvary (KJV, NKJV). Other translations “the skull”.  
Based on a Latin word, the Greek word being one from which we derive our English word *cranium*.
- ▶ **John 19:34** – as His side was pierced, blood and water flowed.
- ▶ **Matthew 26:28** – His blood shed for the remission of our sins

## Vs. 2 – Coming to the cross

- ▶ *Near the cross a trembling soul...*
- ▶ Descriptive of one who discovers their need for salvation through Jesus because of their sins (cf. **Ephesians 2:1-3, 11-12** – without hope)
- ▶ **Acts 2:37** – on Pentecost
- ▶ **Acts 9:6** – Saul (Paul)
- ▶ **Acts 16:29** – the jailer in Philippi

## Vs. 2 – Coming to the cross

- ▶ *Love and mercy found me...*
- ▶ It is by God's grace that we are saved -  
**Ephesians 2:4**
- ▶ **Romans 5:6-10** – God demonstrates His love toward us...

## Vs. 2 – Coming to the cross

- ▶ *There the bright and morning Star sheds its beams around me*
- ▶ Another description of Jesus – **Revelation 22:16**
- ▶ **Malachi 4:2** – the Sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in His wings.
- ▶ **1 John 1:5-7** – we walk in the light, we have fellowship

# Vs.3 – living in the shadow of the cross

- ▶ *Near the cross O Lamb of God...*
- ▶ Another description of Jesus – **John 1:29**
- ▶ **1 Peter 1:19** – redeemed with His precious blood, as of a lamb without blemish
- ▶ **1 Corinthians 5:7** – He is our Passover (lamb)
- ▶ **Revelation 5:5-6** – He was worthy – our only hope.

# Vs.3 – living in the shadow of the cross

- ▶ *Bring its scenes before me...*
- ▶ We should often consider what Jesus endured for us.
- ▶ Anyone who has studied crucifixion will grasp what He bore to pay the price God demanded for OUR guilt.
- ▶ **Philippians 2:5-8** – left heaven, humbled Himself and suffered
- ▶ **2 Corinthians 4:10-11** – Paul daily thought of the cross as he endured and considered what he walked away from – WITHOUT any regret. Why? Because he knew what Jesus did for us.

# Vs.3 – living in the shadow of the cross

- ▶ *Help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me*
- ▶ May we daily consider what the cross means to US
- ▶ **Matthew 16:24** – take up our cross.
- ▶ **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** – we no longer live for ourselves
- ▶ **Galatians 2:20** – crucified with Christ

# Vs.3 – living in the shadow of the cross

- ▶ *Help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me*
- ▶ How do we remain near and remember the cross?
- ▶ We crucify the works of the flesh with its passions –  
**Galatians 5:24**
- ▶ The Lord's supper – **Matthew 26:26-28**
- ▶ Continued Bible reading
- ▶ The songs we sing
- ▶ Listening to messages - **1 Corinthians 1:21-24, 2:2**
- ▶ Through obeying the gospel – **Romans 6:3-4**

## Vs. 4 – faithful to the cross

- ▶ *Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever.*
- ▶ In the cross we find our hope. We endure as we do because Jesus lived as He did.
- ▶ **2 Timothy 2:11** – a faithful saying, if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him.
- ▶ **Colossians 1:27-29** – Christ in you, the hope of glory
- ▶ **1 Peter 1:3-5** – begotten again to a living hope
- ▶ We MUST remain faithful – **1 Corinthians 15:58, Hebrews 10:38-39**

## Vs. 4 – faithful to the cross

- ▶ *Till I reach the golden strand, just beyond the river.*
- ▶ **Revelation 2:10** – faithful until death
- ▶ Strand – land, such as a beach, near a body of water.
- ▶ The river here is the Jordan. While not directly said in scripture, the Jordan is often symbolically used to describe death, as we cross from here to face our eternity.
- ▶ It is a reference to Israel crossing the Jordan to finally enter their promised rest – **Joshua 3 & 4**
- ▶ Just as Israel reached their promised land after wilderness wanderings, so we, after we journey here as strangers and pilgrims will finally cross over to our eternal reward.

# Chorus – in the cross

- ▶ *In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever*
- ▶ **Galatians 6:14** – Paul begins to conclude this letter by declaring that it is only in the cross that he glories (rejoices)
- ▶ He is NOT rejoicing in the wood or torture associated with the cross. Rather, as he consider what it stood for and what it meant to him, THAT is what he was grateful for.
- ▶ He rejoiced because of what Jesus with joy did for us – **Hebrews 12:2.**
- ▶ This is why Paul would describe his life as “our light affliction” – **Romans 8:18, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

# Chorus – in the cross

- ▶ *Till my raptured souls shall find rest beyond the river*
- ▶ The word *rapture* is not found in scripture. It is based on a Latin word (the Greek word *harpazo*) which means to be caught up or snatched. **Cf. 2 Corinthians 12:2-4**
- ▶ **1 Thessalonians 4:17** speaking of the Lord's return, we who are alive will be "caught up" in the air to always be with the Lord.
- ▶ **Revelation 14:13** – ONLY then will we find our eternal rest

**NEAR THE CROSS** is a call  
to continued faithfulness

**What does His cross mean to you?**

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