



**"No Cross,  
No Crown"**

# The Cross and Crown

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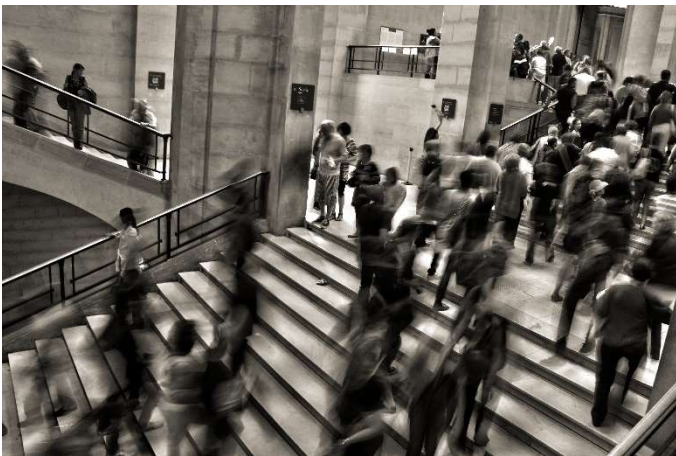
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Much has been made of the poor decision that Lot made when he and his uncle, Abraham, realized that they had to part ways. If you remember the biblical account (in Genesis 13), they came to this conclusion because the land wasn't large enough to support both Abraham's flocks and Lot's. Lot chose what looked like the most fertile ground and settled near Sodom. We all remember how that story ended.

So, yes, Lot made a poor decision, but I don't think that it was his greatest failure. Recently, I've begun wondering what would have happened if he'd gone the other way and left Abraham to settle near Sodom. I can't help thinking that the city might not have been destroyed.

Consider this difference between Abraham and Lot: When God gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision, Abraham saw to it that he and his son, Ishmael, along with every male in his household was circumcised. By contrast, when God rescued Lot, Lot wasn't even able to convince his sons-in-law to flee the coming judgment.

Lot lived on the outskirts of Sodom, apparently content to ignore the brazen sin all around him, as long as it didn't affect his family. Abraham, on the other hand, recognized that his responsibility extended beyond his immediate and to all those around him. I have to think that, had he been the one ended near Sodom, God would have been able to find at least ten righteous people there!



Unfortunately, many believers live their lives as Lot did, content in the knowledge that they and their families are saved, making no effort to reach the lost souls all around them who live in captivity to sin, doomed to a judgment by fire. Christians, we are called to so much more than that!

We can easily become intimidated and shrink from the task because of the scale of evil in the world – the sheer number of evildoers and the depths of their depravity. We can take heart Abraham's example, though. He started with his household, those he lived near and worked with. Let's ask God to use us to show his love and righteousness to the people we see every day. We'll be surprised at how much influence we have!

*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, (...) that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them.*

*(II Corinthians 5:14,15)*

# Thanks for Praying!

We are so grateful for all that God is doing among us in response to your prayers!

Spring Garden Academy recently received a sizable refund from the IRS that we weren't anticipating until next year! Thank you for continuing to uphold us in prayer! The need is great, but God is still fighting on our side!







Mr. Victor leads a session of our "I Am God's Masterpiece" Performing Arts Camp for youth.

## We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list\*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join you in praying about, please let us know.

And thank you to those who keep in touch! We do love hearing from you.

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we understand! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

## Did you know?

There are 206 bones in the human body, including 29 in the head. The smallest bone, the stapes, sits in the ear and is about the size of an orange seed. The largest is the femur – the thigh bone – which runs about 17 to 19 inches long, depending on a person's height.

**"Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."**

(Proverbs 16:24)



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