



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

“No Cross, No Crown”

a publication of Highway Mission Tabernacle and Resurrection Life Church, Philadelphia, PA

Edition LXXI | June 30, 2024 copyright ©2024, Highway Mission Tabernacle

Imagine that you got caught in a heavy rainstorm. Soaked to the skin, you duck into building to get some relief from the downpour. Once you're inside, you're confronted by someone who doesn't believe that it's raining outside. How would you try to convince him? Would you turn on a radio and listen to the local weather? Would you describe to him how an area of low pressure encountered a cold front, causing the clouds to burst forth? If you're like me, you'd stretch your arms out wide and say, “Look at me! I'm totally drenched!”



When I was in college, I was very keen to argue people into the Kingdom – or to *attempt* to do so. I was convinced that I had a rebuttal to every argument, to prove that my faith wasn't silly or misguided. I actually believed that, if I laid out the facts or explained Scripture adequately, I could change people's minds. I suppose, in some cases, that's possible, but, to be honest, I never experienced that personally.

As I've matured in my faith and grown less insecure in my beliefs, I've come to understand that a clever or convincing argument isn't anywhere near as persuasive as the evidence of a transformed life. The evidence of a life that has truly been transformed is the greatest proof of the power of Gospel, even as the evidence of a rain-soaked person is much more impactful than any weather forecast or science lesson.

When the apostles were miraculously released from prison in the night, the angel who set them free instructed them to “go stand in the temple courts and (...) tell the people all about this new life.” (Acts 5:20) The angel didn't tell them to preach the Gospel or to convince the people of sin. He told them to testify about the new life that Jesus had given them.

Sometimes, I think that I oversimplify things, but it really isn't complicated, is it? It's the same command that Jesus gave to the man whom he released from the prison of demon-possession: “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” (Mark 5:19) We may not be able to answer every question about the Bible or refute every argument, but we can – we *must* – tell the people we know how much God has done for us.

Go back and report (...) what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.
(Luke 7:22)

Thanks for Praying!

You're the secret behind the stories we tell!
Please remember to pray for:

- our summer ministries, including Alpha and outreach programs to our neighbors' children and youth,
- our recent graduates to continue to honor God as they move on to their next steps,
- laborers and leaders with a passion for Tioga, and
- multiplication!



We are forming groups for
SUMMER.

Call 215-226-1000
or scan the QR code

Free Preview Night
Friday, June 21st

Alpha

Pray with us for this latest round of Alpha classes.

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 with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

We really do love hearing from you! Every message and phone call helps us keep going!

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, 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, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did you know?

Although Venus doesn't have rain in the sense that we know it on Earth, sulfuric acid rains down from the higher altitudes almost constantly. The rain, which evaporates before it reaches the surface, is accompanied by winds of up to 186 miles per hour and lightning storms created by volcanic eruptions.

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Psalm 19:I



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