



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

“No Cross, No Crown”

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

Edition LXXVIII | August 18, 2024 copyright ©2024, Highway Mission Tabernacle

I've heard it said that Picasso, in his later years, used to whip out quick sketches, sign them, and give them to old friends or to acquaintances whom he had just met. He did this knowing that, as Picassos, the works would be worth a lot of money. I'm not sure how true the story is, but it's an interesting idea, nonetheless.

I used to think of the book of Philemon like one of those quickly composed Picassos – just a letter from Paul about a personnel matter, only included in the Bible because it was written by Paul. Of course, there's actually much more to Paul's letter than that!

Paul, as he makes his plea, represents Christ, who, to this day, lives to make intercession before God on behalf of us, his servants, when we fail. Paul's letter records his intercession to Philemon and his wife on behalf of Onesimus, their runaway slave. Paul's appeal is forceful and personal as he points out the debt that the couple owes him, asking them to take Onesimus back not because he has earned a second chance but because of what Paul has done for them. Similarly, we can imagine Jesus making the passionate appeal to the Father to forgive us, one more time, not because *we* earned forgiveness but because *he* earned our forgiveness by his shed blood. Further, as Paul points out that he is sending Onesimus back as a brother, not just a slave, Jesus' sacrifice transforms us into his brothers and sisters, co-heirs with him of the Father's reward.



As Christ's siblings, we have been called into the family business. We are called to restore relationships, as the book of Philemon shows, reconciling people not only to Christ but also to one other. We should purpose to be agents of healing, teaching a message of forgiving as we have been forgiven, of overlooking past offenses and of welcoming people back into our lives as brothers and sisters in Christ.

I recently spoke with someone who told me that her relationship with her sister had improved dramatically, a fact that she attributed to the prayers of her pastor. I can assure you that God is pleased with this! He's not just concerned with our relationship with him; he also wants us to get along with each other. “If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship *with one another*, and the blood of Jesus, his son, purifies us from all sin.” (I John 1:7) How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)

God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ ... gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ ... And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

(II Corinthians 5:18,19)

Thanks for Praying!





By the grace of God, we have scattered much seed this summer. We are believing God's promise that we will reap a harvest in due time. Please join us as we pray for:

- rest for those who have labored so long and diligently in sowing season,
- good ground for the seed that was sown; may it be well-watered fertile,
- laborers, ready and equipped to bring in the harvest, and
- much good fruit!

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.)

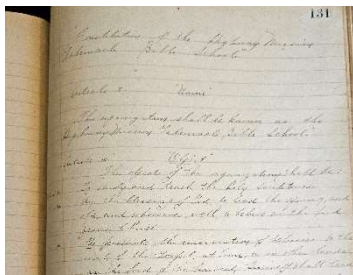
We really do love hearing from you! Every message and phone call helps us keep going!

 PO Box 15191 Philadelphia, PA 19130
 17 th & Tioga Streets (3501 N 17 th Street) Philadelphia, PA 19140
 Church/Academy Office: (215) 226-1000
 Welcome@ResLife.AG

* **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?



Highway operated a school of the Bible while it was still a mission. When Highway reorganized as a church in 1897, the school had already grown to 180 students. The image on the left, from the archives, shows the first paragraphs of the school's constitution.

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19,20)



Highway Mission Tabernacle ♦ Resurrection Life Church ♦ PO Box 15191 Philadelphia, PA 19130

Welcome@ResLife.AG ♦ Church: (215) 226-1000 ♦ Otis: (215) 266-5976

HighwayTabernacle.org ♦ ResLife.AG ♦ Sunday services at Noon: ResLife.stream

Archived Issues: <https://CrossAndCrown.online>