

## THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

My Dad was an architect. The little church we attended had been able to acquire a piece of land for a new "proper" building. As busy as he was, my father agreed to design the new building, free of charge. I was only about seven, but I well remember him working on drawings at home for this project. One thing he was very particular about was the design of all the crosses to be made. They were quite unique, very slender, elongated, and elegant; in keeping with a small building. This prototype was used for all the crosses, and there were lots of them (on the walls, on the doors, on the furnishings). By his retirement, my Dad had worked on many churches. Hundreds of beautiful crosses are seen every Sunday which came from his talented hand.

The "cross of Christ" is by far the most revered symbol of the Christian religion. Depending on which branch of this religion you subscribe to, you may see the cross knelt before, prayed before, kissed by those about to take communion, placed over one's heart on his death-bed; even popped inside his casket for burial. "The Old Rugged Cross" is praised in hymns, and it may have been the first thing you coloured with your crayons in Sunday-school. Given its position in Christianity, does it not seem appropriate to take a close look at "where I first saw the light"?

Where does the cross come from? Most assume it was invented by the cruel Roman overlords as an instrument of death. True, the Romans put hundreds of thousands of people to death by crucifixion; but this means was reserved for those they deemed lower than human... "dogs". As such, and because of the vast quantity of stakes needed, Rome was not about to sink much money or craftsmanship into crosses. So for the most part, they used what was free... trees. Some trees were used to crucify in situ. Some were cut down and used in other locations, set in dug holes. The Dogwood tree was the best, because of its natural shape (like a rounded "Y"). Sometimes the Romans had to roughly hew two posts and spike one atop the other, like a capital "T". But what we think of, a lower case "t", was not what was used. First, it used too much wood. The vertical part above the horizontal member served no purpose. Secondly, this shape would have required joinery - a dado cut into each member to form an overlap connection. All this to kill a dog? Absolutely not.

What was our Messiah crucified on? After all, if you're going to worship an artifact, don't you think it should be a copy of the original item? Does the Bible give us a clue as to what He was nailed to?...

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law,  
being made a curse for us: FOR AS IT IS WRITTEN,  
CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT HANGETH ON A TREE."  
(Galatians 3:13 K.J.V.)

Our Saviour, the Lamb of God, was hung by nails on a Dogwood tree, and NOT on a crafted cross. Notice: "as it is written". Written where?... in the Scriptures, the Old Testament scrolls. Something interesting... the word "cross"

does not appear, not even once, in the entire Old Testament. Now the Old Testament is there to point to the coming Messiah. Don't you think that in its prophecies about Him, and His eventual fate as the sacrificial Lamb, there might be even one mention of a cross? Not if He wasn't to be crucified on one. He had to be hung on a tree. That was the only form of displaying a "curse" over the victim; and He had to be our vicarious curse.

Now if He had to be crucified on a tree, why do you think we see crosses, by the thousands, on all "Christian" church buildings, Bibles, and holy hardware of every description... yet not a single depiction of a "tree"? "Well, surely it's not that important what shape we use to depict His death-stake, is it?" It's one thing to use an incorrectly shaped device, but quite another to kneel before a shape selected by satan. "Oh no, here we go again. Why do all you purists try to pick apart everything?" Glad you asked. Now I can only speak for myself; but my motivation is...

"PROVE ALL THINGS, hold fast that which is good ('truth')."  
(I Thessalonians 5:21 K.J.V.)

"... that old serpent, called the devil, and satan,  
WHICH DECEIVETH THE WHOLE WORLD (for his advantage)..."  
(Revelation 12:9 K.J.V.)

"Lest satan should get an advantage of us: FOR WE (the purists)  
ARE NOT IGNORANT OF HIS DEVICES."  
(II Corinthians 2:11 K.J.V.)


Onward! It may surprise you to learn that the cross, as depicted in the forests of them dotting Christianity, predates the crucifixion of our Messiah by many millenia. And since the beginning of civilization, in its many tweaked forms, it was ALWAYS a Pagan symbol. But before I present the case for this claim, I want to ask you a question. If what I offer is just conjecture, fine. But what if you grasp what will follow, and find you agree with it... what will you do then? Think about it. What will you say when they see you without your "cross" lapel-pin? Or what will you tell your spouse if you want to take down the crucifix from the wall? You see, this is precisely what satan tries to do with every lie he presents. He not only wants to head you in the wrong direction; he also wants to make it nigh impossible for you to correct it. But as awkward and difficult as it may be, I urge you to consider these warnings...


"Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, TOUCH NO  
UNCLEAN ('Pagan') THING, go ye out from the midst of  
her; be ye clean."  
(Isaiah 52:11 K.J.V.)


"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate,  
saith the Lord, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN ('Pagan')  
THING; and I will receive you."  
(II Corinthians 6:17 K.J.V.)


The same strong warning from both the Old and the New Testaments.


Here is what I've found from my study of the history of the symbol we call "the cross". You'll have to decide for yourself what you do with this knowledge.


 THE TAU CROSS - This is the ancient Tau, the character which represents the Egyptian sun-god. Later, it was used by the Greeks to represent "Attis", their sun-god; and also by the Romans to represent "Mithras", the Roman sun-god. This forms the basis for the "Christian" cross.


 THE INDIAN CROSS - In sanskrit this is "svastika", the symbol of sun worship. It dates back at least 4,000 years and was used in the Far East, Africa, Europe, and in some North American Indian tribes. The form represents the regeneration of life from the sun. When it was used by the Nazis, it was reversed.


 THE ANKH - This is sometimes referred to as the Egyptian Cross, as it is a hieroglyphic representing life and regeneration. It was commonly used as an amulet to represent Venus, the sun-goddess. The loop shows the sun on the horizon. Because of its link to Venus (a female goddess), it was adopted by modern biology to be the symbol to indicate "female".


 THE GREEK CROSS - This symbol dates from around 1500 B.C. It is found on Greek, Persian, and Assyrian tablets and Pagan shrines. This form of the cross (all points equal length) is used by the Roman Catholic Church for the vestments of the Priesthood.


 THE CHI-RHO CROSS - Familiar to Catholics, this predates Christianity as a symbol of good fortune. The Roman Emperor Constantine I officially adopted it in the 4th century A.D. He was originally a sun-worshipper.

 THE LATIN CROSS - Also known as the Roman Cross, this is the one you will identify with whether you are Protestant or Catholic. But this is the newest of the cross variants. It was adopted by the Pope in the 3rd century when he decided it would represent the one the Messiah died on. It is based on the Tau.

 THE PAPAL CROSS - This cross is reserved for the office of the Pope; and he alone may wear it. The three horizontal bars represent his three realms of authority: the church, the world, and heaven.

 THE MALTESE CROSS - This eight-pointed cross is used by many of the Orthodox Churches, as well as Rome to some degree. It is the symbol of The Knights of Malta, a military branch of Freemasonry.

 THE CELTIC CROSS - The cross of Celtic religion, St. Patrick is said to have drawn a circle on the Latin Cross to incorporate the moon-goddess symbol into Christianity for acceptance by occultists as well.

 THE ROSE CROSS - The mystic "trinity" symbol, representing the three principles of alchemy: mercury, sulphur, and salt.

There are indeed many other permutations of the cross spanning many thousands of years. All of them are Pagan symbols. I selected these because they are the most recognized by the many slices of the Christian pie. And the list I presented, I did so in a very brief way. There are pages of archaeological evidence, but that would become tedious. But one thing is absolutely certain. There is no "cross" out there which is free of Paganism. Do your own research, you won't find a one.

So back to my question. If you accept this as truth, what do you do now? "Well, what are my options?" The most commonly chosen option will be passive mental assent to the verity of the facts; but followed by no change in any practice. And you have every right to choose this option. I'm not being judgmental, just offering information. Some of you may go a little further. You might not only agree with the information; but you might even confront your Pastor or Priest about what actually stands atop your church-steeple. But this kind of talk comes at a price. You'll be branded as a nut, at best; or maybe even a heretic. So the well-intentioned start will end up as a vapour. The net result will be no actual change in practice.

But a very few of you will be the ones I prepared this paper for. You will be given "eyes to see", and the bravery to follow through. If you are one of these, what should you do? I can offer suggestions, and tell you what I do. I refuse to have a cross in my home. If there is one pictured in a Bible I use, I will cut it out. If anyone gives me a gift with a cross depicted on it, I will discreetly discard it. It's amazing how when people think you are a "religious" person, they'll look for things with crosses to give as gifts. I don't even go inside buildings which have a cross over them, if I can avoid it. If you attend a traditional church, I would urge you to "come out from her, and be separate"... and not just because of the crosses (but that's another paper). This I can promise you... whatever price you pay to be obedient to your Heavenly Father, and stay clean from anything Pagan, He will reward you many times over. "De-crossing" might be a tough one for you. This trek through the veil of tears is not an easy one. Now you have knowledge you may not have had before. I encourage you not to reject it...

"My people are destroyed (by satan) for lack of knowledge:  
because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee..."  
(Hosea 4:6 K.J.V.)

Satan has cleverly made the Pagan cross the most cherished symbol of the Christian religion. He plies his trade with consummate skill. Don't let him keep fooling you. Can you imagine the accumulated storehouse of transgressions on the tally, from the homage paid to Pagan gods at the foot of the old rugged cross?