

CHRIST NOTHING TO PASSERS-BY

BY W. F. BELL

As we travel America's roads all of us are constantly barraged with images that seek to sell us something. Many signs never draw our attention at all, or maybe the print is too small for us to read them quickly. Some signs and messages "grab us" immediately if it involves pictures of men and women dressed scantily, or if certain phrases are used that allure us. Even signs with gospel messages on them sometimes are meaningless to us because of over-familiarity with them, or maybe (for others) some just do not understand the religious jargon.

It was Rudyard Kipling who said, "That cry is so common, that the passers-by never turned their heads." I'm not sure what he was referring to, but I am going to relate it to the glorious Person of Him called "The Lord of Glory," who yet was "crucified" by the unwise rulers of this world

(I Corinthians 2:8). We still have lots and lots of "the unwise" around today, from politicians and sports heroes to religious leaders.

"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?" (Lamentations 1:12). This was Jeremiah's lament as he was viewing the destruction of Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians. The same question needs to be asked in our day. "Nothing to you?" Indeed, to most passers-by -- someone lamenting their sins, or talking of their need of a Savior, or speaking humbly and reverently of Jehovah God -- this is "nothing" to them at all. They have no time for such, and is "so common" in this country, they "never turn their heads" (or they simply shrug it off, let out a curse word, or give a sneering smile). The world views followers of Christ as just more "religious freaks" to contend with on a daily basis.

"Jesus Christ" is slang to many today, and God-fearing people cringe to hear the phrase coming from the ungodly. We hear this Precious Name slung around like a yo-yo in all public places. I am amazed at even the lightheartedness of religious people when referring to Christ. It seems He is being blasphemed as never before in public. Listen for yourself. See how we honor and glorify everything and everyone today but "The Lord of Glory." See how Christ is belittled and ridiculed. Someone even said to me the other day in a place of business, "I know some Democrats who would not even vote for Jesus Christ." (It makes me weep to even relate this, that Christ could be "voted for.") But in sacred Scripture honor is given to Yeshua the Messiah, who is none other than "The Lord Jesus Christ." **Note that full title** -- and see how few use it.

The Song of Solomon is being carnally interpreted in our day by our new generation of "Bible scholars," but I want to give you the prevailing view of most of the godly commentators of the past. The question is asked, "What is thy beloved more than another beloved?" (5:9). We might ask, "What is Christ among all the gods of men?" Well, Christ is seen as "The Chiefest Among Ten Thousand" (5:10), "Most Sweet" and "Altogether Lovely" (5:16). This kind of language does not fit our user-friendly church crowd. It is **not** going to be heard from the religiously-wise or the politically-correct of this world. So don't look for it. No, **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS NOTHING** to most passers-by.

The only question that remains is, "What is the Lord Jesus Christ to you?" Thomas said, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). Peter said, "He is Lord of all" (Acts 10:36). Paul said, "The blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (I Timothy 6:15). And God the Father said, "This is my Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). And what do you say? Or will you just pass on by?
"Unto you therefore who believe HE is precious" (I Peter 2:7).

One Solitary Life

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress. **(Writer unknown)**

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