

The Path to the Cross
By Rachel Conner

What was the path to the cross like when Jesus walked it? I can't even begin to imagine what all He went through as he walked that long and torturous walk to His awful death! Not only did He have the dread of knowing what was going to happen to Him when He got there to Golgotha, but He also endured much suffering on His way there. He was beat so badly before He even was sent on the walk that He was "unrecognizable." So you can imagine the pain He suffered in just walking. On top of that, He had a crown of thorns sticking into His head and then they made Him carry His own large piece of tree that He would soon be hung on. While walking on this long path to where He was to be crucified, He was jeered at and spit on by most of those He passed by...while others were wailing. I can only imagine what turmoil He must have been going through both physically and emotionally at that moment.

The Path to the cross was a long, hard and sometimes seemingly impossible journey. He had moments where I'm sure He felt like He could no longer keep walking. When we get saved, our life becomes like the Path to the Cross at times. "In this world there will be trouble...but I have overcome the world," says the Bible. While we are walking on this path to redemption in our lives, we face things that seem impossible to bear. Sometimes we feel like giving up and we can't go on another step. We face many emotions and trials along this path. But just as Christ did for us...we must always look to the cross as our goal. Christ knew that He would die a horrible death on that cross but what kept Him going was the knowledge that His life and death and resurrection would save the world. He saw the greater picture that God had in store. He found the strength within to keep going towards the cross no matter what suffering He was going through or what turmoil His emotions were in. He didn't give up!

Once we accept Christ as our personal Savior and ask Him to be part of our life, we think that life is going to be just perfect now... but it is not. Life continues on ...just as the world continues on in their thinking. Things do not just change on their own and all your problems do not just go away, but yet we have to continue to look towards the cross...to our redemption and future in Heaven with Him. Why then do we want to continue on this road that sometimes seems unbearable? Why did Christ continue on His seemingly unending path? Because of the hope and the inner joy He had knowing that He was to die and rise again to save us. We continue on this path of Christianity even when things do not go according to our plans because we have an inner joy and inner hope that someday we will see Heaven and that we will be able to look behind us and see all the people that we encouraged to follow us on the path to the cross so they too could be saved. Christ gives us that hope and inner strength to continue in life even when it seems unbearable. He gives us an indescribable joy that overflows out of our countenance and onto the people around us. When we cling to the inner joy and hope that He gives us, we can encourage all those around us and someday see Christ in Heaven and all His glory! I look forward to that day and I look forward to seeing all of you there with me! Take time today to consider whether the path you are on is the path to the Cross or a path leading to destruction and anguish. Choose to lead a life of love, joy and hope by walking the Path to the Cross. Only Christ can give you that inner strength and hope for your life and the lives of those you love.

If you wish to accept Christ into your heart, here is a simple prayer that you can pray:

“Dear Jesus, I have sinned and need Your forgiveness in my life. I want You to come into my life and give me the hope, joy and love that I so much desire. Please forgive me and come into my heart and my life and give me the strength and joy to walk on Your Path instead of my own. I know You have a great plan for my life and I am willing to strive to follow Your Path from now on. Thank You for loving me even before I was born and thank You for Your forgiveness and grace in my life! I love You and want to serve You with all my heart. Amen.”

[Rachel Conner is the Youth Pastor at Friend Christian Assembly.]