



**"No Cross,
No Crown"**

The Cross and Crown

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I'm amazed that fly paper actually works. Actually, what amazes me is that it works more than once; that a fly, seeing other flies dead or dying, stuck to the paper, wouldn't fly off in the opposite direction. Maybe those late-coming flies think that they'll be the exception.



I guess I can't expect much in the way of deductive reasoning from a creature with a brain the size of an exclamation point. The tragedy is that human beings seem to suffer from the same lack of insight. For example, although public service announcements have warned us about the dangers of smoking for years, the tobacco isn't going away anytime soon. Humans tend to have that wide-eyed optimism which believes that consequences are for others, not for them. Sadly, even Christians flirt with sin, believing that, although others have stumbled, they will not, or, having stumbled into sin, believing that, although others have had to face consequences, they themselves never will.

Under God's inspiration, the authors of the historical books of the Bible included not just individuals' triumphs, but also their tragedies. Paul writes that "these things occurred as examples (...) and were written down as warnings to us." (I Corinthians 10:6,11) How much better to learn from those tragic examples than from our own tragic experience!

People hang fly paper with one purpose: To lure insects to their death. The enemy of our souls dangles temptation in front of us for the same reason. Our best defense is to fly in the opposite direction! God doesn't tell that we must resist temptation, but that we must run away from it! Yes, resist the devil, and he will flee (James 4:7), but when it comes to temptation, we're told to run! (I Corinthians 6:18, 10:14; II Timothy 2:22)

How much wiser was Joseph, who, when tempted by Potiphar's wife, ran away, than David, who lingered on his balcony, staring at Uriah's wife. Whatever temptation the enemy – or the world, or our own sinful nature – dangles in front of us, play it smart and fly away.

*The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.
(Proverbs 27:12)*

Thanks for Praying!

We are so grateful for all that God is doing among us in response to your prayers! Thank you for committing to pray with us for

- many health challenges among our ministry team and their families,
- summer outreach and ministry to kids and families,
- the wisdom and ability to train the next generation of leaders, and
- financial provision to sustain our ministries.







Pray for our youngest ones and their families!

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 you in praying about, please let us know.

We love hearing from you! Please do keep in touch!

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we understand! Just call or drop us a note, 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!

Did you know?

Flies can only fly at a speed of about five miles per hour. It may seem that they're going faster, because they're so small and so maneuverable, but, in a race, a fast-walking human could outpace a fly. Dragonflies set the standard for speed: They can achieve speeds of around 35 miles an hour.

**"Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways."
(Proverbs 4:26)**



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