



# The Cross and Crown

**"No Cross,  
No Crown"**

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For virtually all of my three and a half decades in Philadelphia, I've depended on public transportation to get to work. (The exception was during the pandemic, when I worked from home.) For most of those years, I relied on the paper schedules that Septa (SouthEastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority) publishes to coordinate my commute. Whenever the clocks changed for Daylight Saving Time, I could count on seeing a table covered with boxes full of schedules at Suburban Station. Somewhere along the line, someone thought to post a sign on that table, urging commuters to take only the schedules that they needed because, although schedules were free to the public, they cost money to print.



It's easy to lose sight of the cost of things that we don't have to pay for. As one of my former pastors used to say, "Wasteful is the one who does not pay the bills!"

As Christians, we must never allow ourselves to lose sight of the fact that, although our salvation is God's free gift to us, it cost Jesus his human life. This is why Jesus, when he instituted the sacrament of Communion, taught that we are to remember him as we partake of it.

It is much easier for us to take liberties with God's grace and take it for granted if we forget what a dear price Christ paid for it. This why I often quote I Peter 1:18 and 19, especially during Communion, and why I urge Christians to learn the verses by heart:

For you know that it is not with perishable things such as silver and gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down by your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

To God, your sanctification was worth his very life. How much is it worth to you?

*God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith (...) so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

*(Romans 3:25,26)*

# Thanks for Praying!

As the year draws to a close, we are laser-focused on the opportunities that the season affords us to connect to our community. We need God's help! Please pray with us for







Celebrating Light the Night with our neighbors

- our Thanksgiving and Christmas community outreaches,
- the new believers who have expressed interest in baptism and church membership, and
- the financial and human resources that we need to carry out our mission.

## 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.

Thanks so much to those who keep in touch! It's so encouraging to hear from you!

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! 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?

Before the railroad era, there were over 144 time zones in North America. This wasn't much of an issue for slower forms of transportation, but trains could cover multiple time zones in a single trip. This caused confusion (and some collisions) when trains from different time zones met in on the same track. Time zones in the US, initially established based on the position of the sun, are now set by law and can only be changed if the adjustment is determined to be beneficial to commerce.

**From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**(Psalm 113:3)**



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