



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

"No Cross, No Crown"

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Young King Josiah, when confronted by the Word of God during the restoration of the temple, was so moved that he tore his robes (a gesture of contrition) and repented, forestalling God's judgment on Judah. Only a generation later, his son, King Jehoiakim, was completely unmoved by the words of the prophet Jeremiah. He actually cut off columns of the scroll as it was being read to him and tossed them into the fireplace.

God's truth was the same in both instances. The difference was in the way that the kings responded to it.

You may not think of yourself as a king or queen, but in some sense, you are. You have control of your actions and how you respond to what's going on around you. You alone decide whether you will submit to the truth of the Bible or, essentially, cut off its pages and toss them into the fire. As Christians, we signed on for the big things: We shall not murder; we shall not steal; we shall not commit adultery – but it can become tricky when we read commandments such as “Do not judge,” “Do not gossip,” and “Bless those who persecute you” – or when we are confronted by Jesus' teaching that it is evil thoughts and not just evil acts that defile us (Matthew 15:19,20; see also Matthew 5:21–28).



In the last edition of this newsletter, I mentioned that we should expect God to speak to us through parables in our circumstances. Similarly (and, in fact, more), we should expect to hear God when we read the Bible. Just as we expect a meal to address our body's needs, we should expect the Bible, our Daily Bread, to address our spirit's needs. And, just as we begin every meal by thanking God for the food and asking him to bless it to our bodies, we should get in the habit of starting off our devotions with prayer, thanking God for his Word and asking him to bless our reading.

We can fill our bodies with junk food for a quick infusion of energy but, ultimately, that leads to a crash. Our bodies – and our spirits – need regular, good and substantial meals; nourishment that will carry us throughout the day!

Oh, how I love your Law! I meditate on it all day long. (Psalm 119:97)

Thanks for Praying!

Because you kneel and pray, we are empowered to stand and fight! Please continue praying with us for:

- two in our church/school family who need housing,
- our upcoming mini-musical and fundraiser,
- people to be called to missions during April's missions convention, and
- laborers to be sent to our harvest field.







Celebrating Resurrection Sunday, joined by Pastor Leroy Pendleton and Shechem Ministries

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 with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

We really do love hearing from you! Knowing that you're engaged in our struggle and praying alongside us encourages us so much!

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, 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, or subscribe to at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did you know?

A lipogram a piece of writing that deliberately omits a certain letter. A notable example is the 50,000-word novel, Gadsby, written without the letter "e" – which means excluding the word "the," the pronouns, "me," "he," "she," "they" and "them," and words in the past tense that end in "ed." The author, Ernest Vincent Wright, also avoided abbreviations of words that contain "e," such as "Mr."

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. (I Corinthians 2:4,5)



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