



GRACENOTE

MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS AUXILIARY



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“At the Center of It All” (Part III)

“He made the One Who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

(2 Cor. 5:21 CSB)

Over the past two days, we’ve contemplated why the cross holds such high importance in the liturgy and life of those who comprise the “household of faith.” That it serves as the Crucible of Our Redemption and the Crosswalk of Our Reconciliation are two possibilities worth our consideration. Lastly, let’s consider that the cross stands at the center of it all because it is **The Cornerstone of Our Righteousness**. Created in the image of God, the first Adam enjoyed innocence due to his inherent righteousness. Sadly, both were lost as a consequence of his willful act of disobedience (Rom. 3:10). Since righteousness is vital in order for one to see God, only God could design a plan for a righteousness once forfeited to be restored. In fact, at the scene of the crime, He alluded to such a plan. “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between his seed and your seed. He will crush your head and you will strike his heel” (Gen. 3:15 KJV). When Christ was nailed to the *cross*, God fulfilled that promise. In so doing, “He made the One Who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21 CSB). How often we sing,

“When He shall come with trumpet sound, O, may I then, in Him be found dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless before the throne.” (E. Mote)

“And when I think, that God His son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in. That on the *cross*, my burdens gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin.” (C. Boberg)

As we contemplate the significance of this historic week and pivotal day, consider that at the center of it all is Jesus, the Christ fastened to an old rugged *cross*: the crucible of our redemption, the crosswalk of our reconciliation, and the cornerstone of our righteousness. Let us remember that central to each disciple’s charge is to “take up his cross and follow [Christ]” (Mt. 10:38; 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23; 14:27). May we find strength and satisfaction in our service, as we sing,

“Must Jesus bear the *cross* alone and all the world go free?
No! There’s a *cross* for everyone. And there’s a cross for me.” (T. Shepherd)

In the *cross*, in the *cross* be my glory ever,
‘til my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.” (F. Crosby)