

CRAWFORD  
BROADCASTING  
COMPANY



Executive Offices ■ P.O. Box 3003 ■ Blue Bell, PA 19422-0735 ■ (215) 628-3500

Monday, April 3, 2006  
Donald B. Crawford, President

**THE STAND**  
**EASTER**  
**THE CROSS**

**IT IS FINISHED!**

So said the Nazarene, the Redeemer. Mission accomplished.

The body had been bruised. The flesh ripped and torn. The blood shed. This, as God would have it, was done for us, for you and for me. The propitiation, the substitution, was complete. Because of this, we who are one with Him are one with God.

We are then, as Christians, crucified with Christ, one with Him in that awful act. We emotionally and spiritually hang with him and to the extent we can, feel and know the suffering and its meaning. We partake of the cross 2000 years later, with Communion as we share the body with bread and the blood with wine. The ceremonial act of forgiveness and remembrance of Him is to celebrate and consecrate the forgiveness of the cross. The cross is the way and means to redemption and reconciliation with God. Every taint of sin gone, covered forever. There is now nothing between the soul and the Savior. What a remarkable act of love the crucifixion is. "It is finished" as He said, but for us, it is only just beginning. The work on Earth may be done, but the eternal work goes on and on. Death was momentary but from this death came a new kind of life here and now, and hereafter, temporal and eternal. Only the Christ could do this, only THE PASSION could produce these spiritual dynamics. Lifesaving, lifesaving insights and truths.

Many who watched the crucifixion mocked in disbelief. They regarded this Jesus as mere man, criminal, a worthless life. But the triumph over death and the grave was the last laugh, and the laugh turned to joy unspeakable for the new hope, the eternal hope for all mankind.

I stood at the grave, the Protestant tomb in Jerusalem where supposedly He lay. If not the actual place, it was an actual replica and the emotionality of being there is indescribable. Words fail as things eternal, far beyond our human ability to comprehend, overwhelm. It was empty. No one laid there. It was a jolting reminder of the crucifixion as temporal, only until the third day. It was a much more vivid reminder of THE RESURRECTION, the core of Christianity. I pray that someday you would stand there in that tomb and let the reality of an empty grave, a crucifixion gone awry, overwhelm and change you. It will do just that.

**April 3, 2006**  
**THE STAND**  
**Page 2**

He was crucified, and you and I says Paul, are crucified with Him. Christians are crucified with Christ, but nevertheless we live. He in us and we in Him. We are one with Him. The crucifixion is but the first step in the resurrection. Salvation full and free in the flesh and the blood. Death for Him has no sting and grave has no victory. There is for every Christian, as it was for him, triumph over death and the grave. In a world racked by war, brutality and hate, the message of love and forgiveness 2000 years ago echoes today more strongly and passionately than ever.

May the love and forgiveness of the crucifixion be your portion on Good Friday, and every good Friday after that, and every day of your life.

DBC/msl