



Pastor's Page

"Cross Winds"

I love this time of the year; long hot lazy days and beautiful balmy evenings that seem to go on for ever.....(well I think we've had one day like that this month!!) Yes friends this is flaming June when 'summer suns' are suppose to be 'glowing over land and sea' But, there have been times already this month when it has been wetter, colder and more miserable than November!! Yet, despite it all I love our British summers! (That's why I'm off to Greece soon!)

As a child I spent most of the summer holiday at our family caravan in North Wales and it was here that my father taught me an important spiritual lesson: There was a little tree behind our caravan which served as a great landmark for our holiday home and a barometer for the weather! From the road you couldn't see the van but you could see the tree, so we knew when we were nearly there. This tree was very easy to spot because of its windswept branches. The branches clearly and constantly pointed in an easterly direction. This was, my father informed me, due to the prevailing winds, which in this part of the country are warm westerly ones. This meant that it was a very mild climate here. However, there were days in this corner of North Wales when cold easterly winds blew and we shivered in the wintry weather! It was at these times, my father advised, when we doubted the truth about the warm westerly weather, that we needed to look again at the little tree and remember the direction of the prevailing wind. The lesson was obvious; there will be times in life when things are difficult when we feel the cold easterly winds. Times when we may doubt God's love and purpose for our lives, times when we wonder if he has broken his promise never to leave us nor forsake us. Well it's at times like these that we need to look again, not at a little windswept tree in North Wales, but with the eye of faith, at a tree on Calvary on which the 'Prince of glory' died.

And what does that cross at Calvary tell us? Firstly it reveals the awful nature of sin However nice we might like to think we are, the cross reminds us of our wickedness. Those who called for and supported the death of Jesus were nice people like you and me. In fact they were the kind of people you are likely to meet at a religious gathering! The Apostle Peter preaching to worshippers at the religious feast of Pentecost said; "***This man (Jesus) was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross***" (Acts 2:23) The Old Testament puts it more poetically; "***We all like sheep have gone astray each of us has turned to his own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all***" (Isaiah 53:6) So we are all somehow involved; our sin and rebellion necessitated the death of Jesus.

But the cross also shows us the depth of God's love. The bible says "***But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners Christ died for us***" (Romans 5:8). He took the punishment that our sin deserves and rose from the dead to offer us everlasting life. This is God's love

So whatever comes your way this week, however tough your life may be, however strong those un-seasonal winds may blow, look again to the tree at Calvary and remember that God is with you; he loves you dearly and the cross proves his point

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