



# Old Time Gospel Hymns Bible Study

Gethsemane Lutheran  
Church  
3/22/2021

**Welcome**

# Trivia: A Biblical “Who Said It?”

“For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

Mordecai, in a message to Esther after a decree had been issued that all Jews be destroyed; Esther 4:14

# Trivia: A Biblical “Who Said It?”

“Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?...Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

King Nebuchadnezzar; Daniel 3:24-25

# Trivia: A Biblical “Who Said It?”

“Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Peter, responding to the risen Jesus asking him if he loved Him; John 21:17

# Trivia: A Biblical “Who Said It?”

“Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

Thomas, responding to the disciples telling him that they had seen the risen Jesus; John 20:25

# Trivia: A Biblical “Who Said It?”

“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.”

Peter, in a letter to “those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia”; 1 Peter 2:1-3



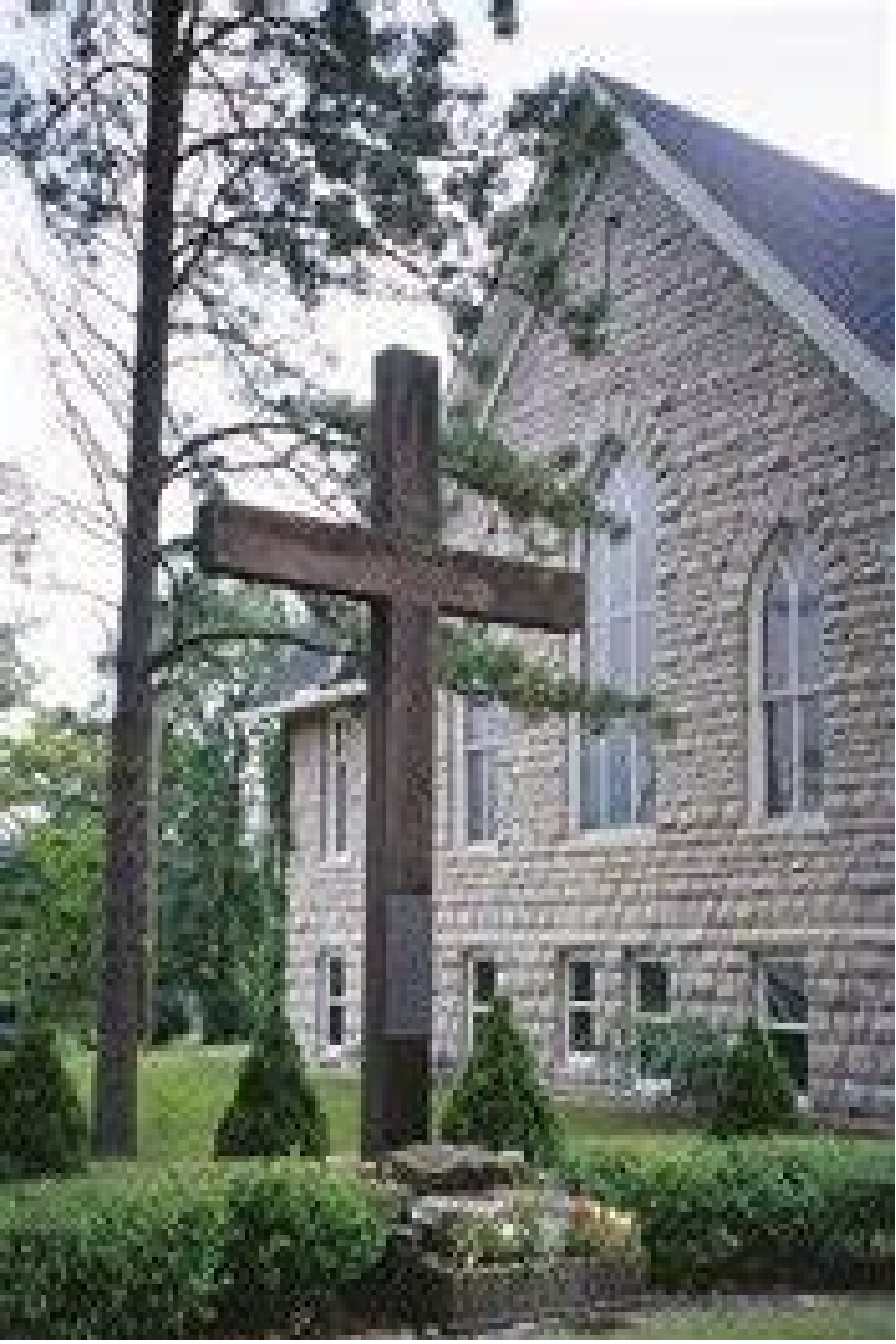
Spotlight Hymn:  
The Old Rugged  
Cross



# The Old Rugged Cross: History

- Written by Methodist evangelist George Bennard (1873-1958) in late 1912, early 1913.
- A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Bennard was raised in Iowa and accepted the Christian faith at the age of 22 at an evangelistic meeting of the Salvation Army in Canton, Iowa.
- Just three years later in 1898, Bennard was ordained as a Methodist minister and was commissioned by the Salvation Army as a traveling evangelist.
- In 1910, Bennard resigned from the Salvation Army and began his own itinerant ministry, traveling throughout the Midwest, holding revivals until his retirement 30 years later.



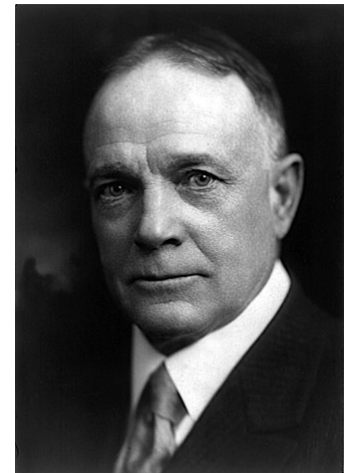


# The Old Rugged Cross: History

- In 1912, shortly after branching out into his own ministry, Bennard was heckled incessantly by several youth at a revival meeting in Michigan.
- Troubled by their disregard for the Gospel, Bennard began to consider how he could more clearly and effectively present the Gospel.
- As he reflected on this, his mind began to focus on the Cross.
  - “I seemed to have a vision,” Bennard later recalled, “I saw the Christ and the Cross as inseparable.”
  - Bennard reported that he began to pray that God would give him a fuller understanding of the Cross.
- In the fall of 1912, Bennard penned the first verse of The Old Rugged Cross after a revival in Albion, Michigan. From December 29, 1912 to January 12, 1913, Bennard conducted a series of revival meetings at the Friends Church in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. During this series of meetings, Bennard completed the hymn, and debuted it publicly during service on the final night of the meetings, with the accompaniment of organist Pearl Tortenson Berg.

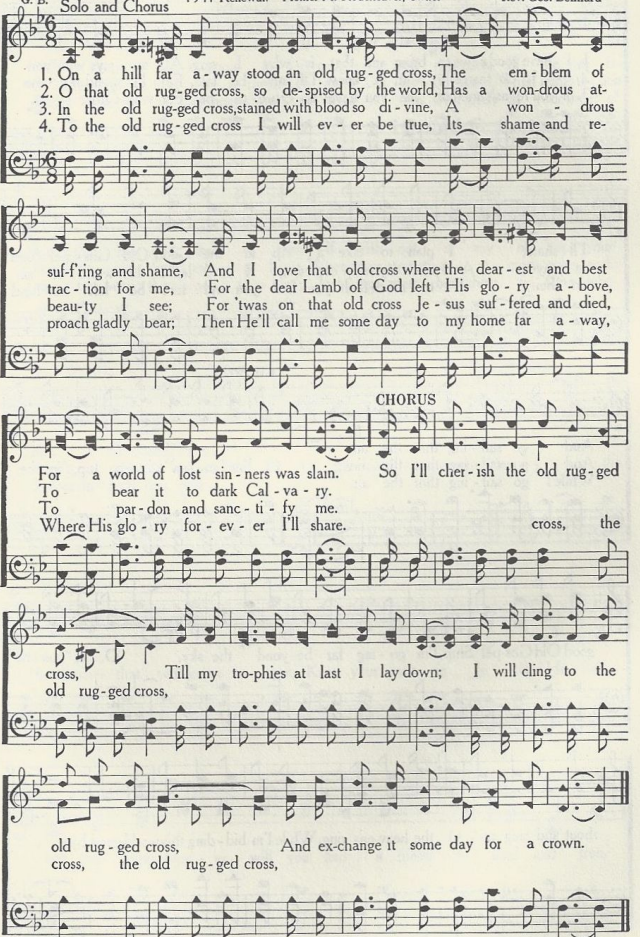
# The Old Rugged Cross: History

- The hymn quickly began to gain popularity as it was performed throughout the midwest, and by 1915 had been published in *Heart and Life Songs for the Church, Sunday School, Home and Campmeeting*.
- Shortly thereafter, the hymn came to the attention of popular evangelist Billy Sunday who began frequently utilizing it in his evangelistic services throughout the US, leading to widespread exposure and popularity.



# The Old Rugged Cross: The Text

The Old Rugged Cross 305  
Copyright, 1913, by Geo. Bennard, Words and Music  
1941 Renewal. Homer A. Rodeheaver, owner Rev. Geo. Bennard  
G. B. Solo and Chorus



1. On a hill far a-way stood an old rug-ged cross, The em-blem of  
2. O that old rug-ged cross, so de-spised by the world, Has a won-drous at-  
3. In the old rug-ged cross, stained with blood so di-vine, A won-drous  
4. To the old rug-ged cross I will ev-er be true, Its shame and re-  
suf-ring and shame, And I love that old cross where the dear-est and best  
trac-tion for me, For the dear Lamb of God left His glo-ry a-bove,  
beau-ty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Je-sus suf-fered and died,  
proach gladly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far a-way,  
CHORUS  
For a world of lost sin-ners was slain. So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged  
To bear it to dark Cal-va-ry.  
To par-don and sanc-ti-fy me. cross, the  
Where His glo-ry for-ev-er I'll share.  
cross, Till my tro-phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the  
old rug-ged cross,  
old rug-ged cross, And ex-change it some day for a crown.  
cross, the old rug-ged cross,

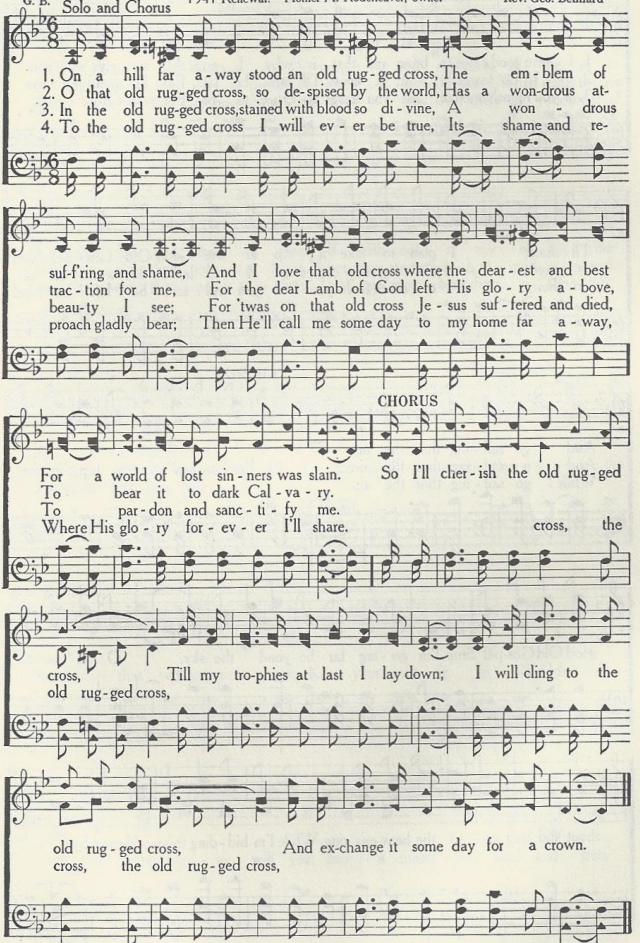
## Verse 1

**On a hill far away,  
stood an old rugged Cross,  
the emblem of suff'ring and shame.  
And I love that old Cross,  
where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.**

**So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down.  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

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proach gladly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far a-way,  
CHORUS  
For a world of lost sin-ners was slain. So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged  
To bear it to dark Cal-va-ry.  
To par-don and sanc-ti-fy me.  
Where His glo-ry for-ev-er I'll share. cross, the  
cross, Till my tro-phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the  
old rug-ged cross,  
old rug-ged cross, And ex-change it some day for a crown.  
cross, the old rug-ged cross,

## Verse 2

**Oh, that old rugged Cross,  
so despised by the world  
Has a wondrous attraction for me.  
For the dear Lamb of God,  
left His Glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary**

**So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down.  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

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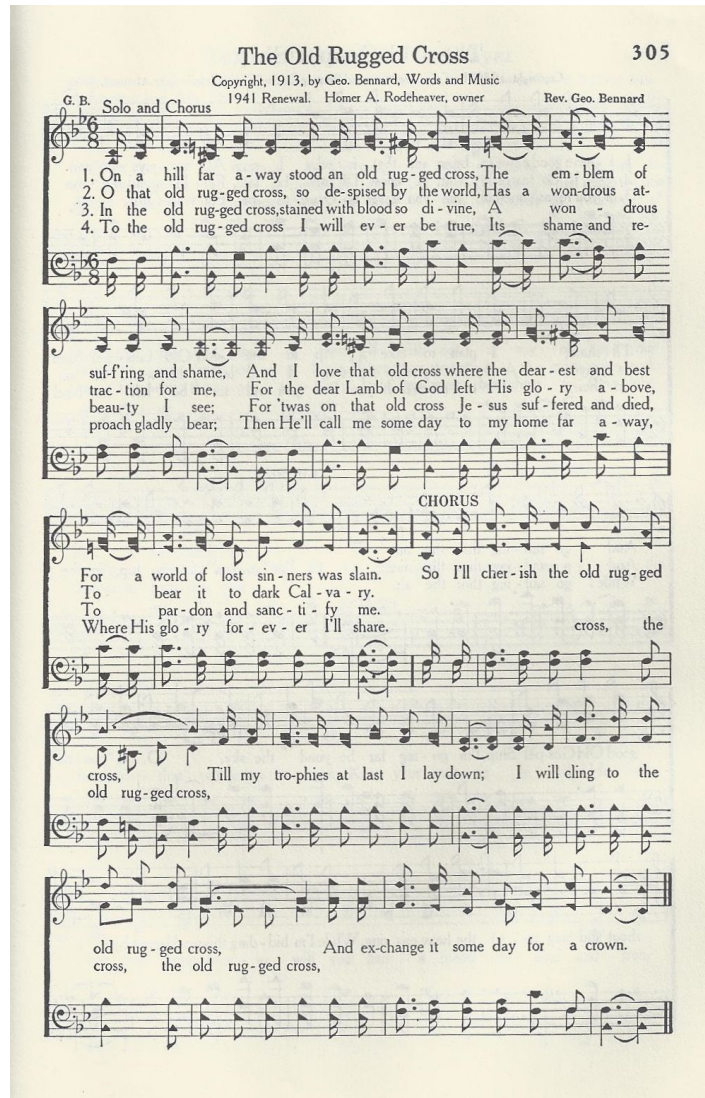
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beau-ty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Je-sus suf-fered and died,  
proach gladly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far a-way,

CHORUS

For a world of lost sin-ners was slain. So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged  
To bear it to dark Cal-va-ry.  
To par-don and sanc-ti-fy me.  
Where His glo-ry for-ev-er I'll share. cross, the

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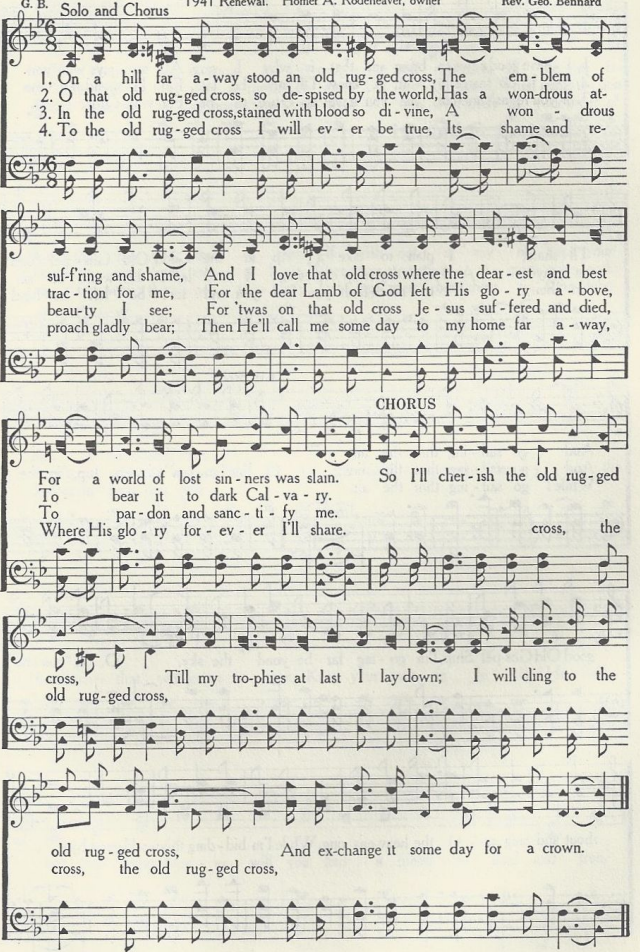
## Verse 3

**In the old rugged Cross,  
stain'd with blood so divine  
A wondrous beauty I see.  
For 'twas on that old Cross,  
Jesus suffered and died  
To pardon and sanctify me.**

**So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down.  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

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cross, the old rug-ged cross,

## Verse 4

To the old rugged Cross,  
I will ever be true  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear.  
Then He'll call me some day,  
to my home far away  
Where His glory forever I'll share.

So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross  
Till my trophies at last I lay down.  
I will cling to the old rugged Cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown.

# The Old Rugged Cross: The Scripture

- On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross...
  - *“Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus. And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him...There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.”* Luke 23:26-27,32-33
- Other translations refer to this as “the place of the Skull”, or Golgatha.
- We know that this place was outside the city gate (Hebrews 13:12) and that it was visible from a distance (Mark 15:40, Luke 23:49), which has led many to presume it to be on a hill, though that is not explicitly stated in scripture.



# The Old Rugged Cross: The Scripture

- The emblem of suffering and shame
- We see this concept appearing multiple times throughout the hymn:
  - “So despised by the world”
  - “It’s shame and reproach gladly bear”
- Why is the Cross an emblem of suffering and shame? Why is it despised by the world? Why is the Cross connected with shame and reproach?
- Crucifixion was a method of execution the Romans had learned from the Persians. Crosses with dead or dying men was not an uncommon site around Jerusalem, as evidenced by two other criminals having received the same sentence as Christ.
- Rome typically staged these executions in higher visibility locations (i.e. this was along a road that Simon of Cyrene was traveling) to stand as a testament to Roman authority and a warning for all to submit to that authority.

# The Old Rugged Cross: The Scripture

- For faithful Jews, crucifixion would be an especially horrific death because of implications from the Old Testament law.
  - *“And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance.”* Deuteronomy 21:22-23
- This connection was not at all lost on the New Testament Jews:
  - *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.”* Galatians 3:13-14

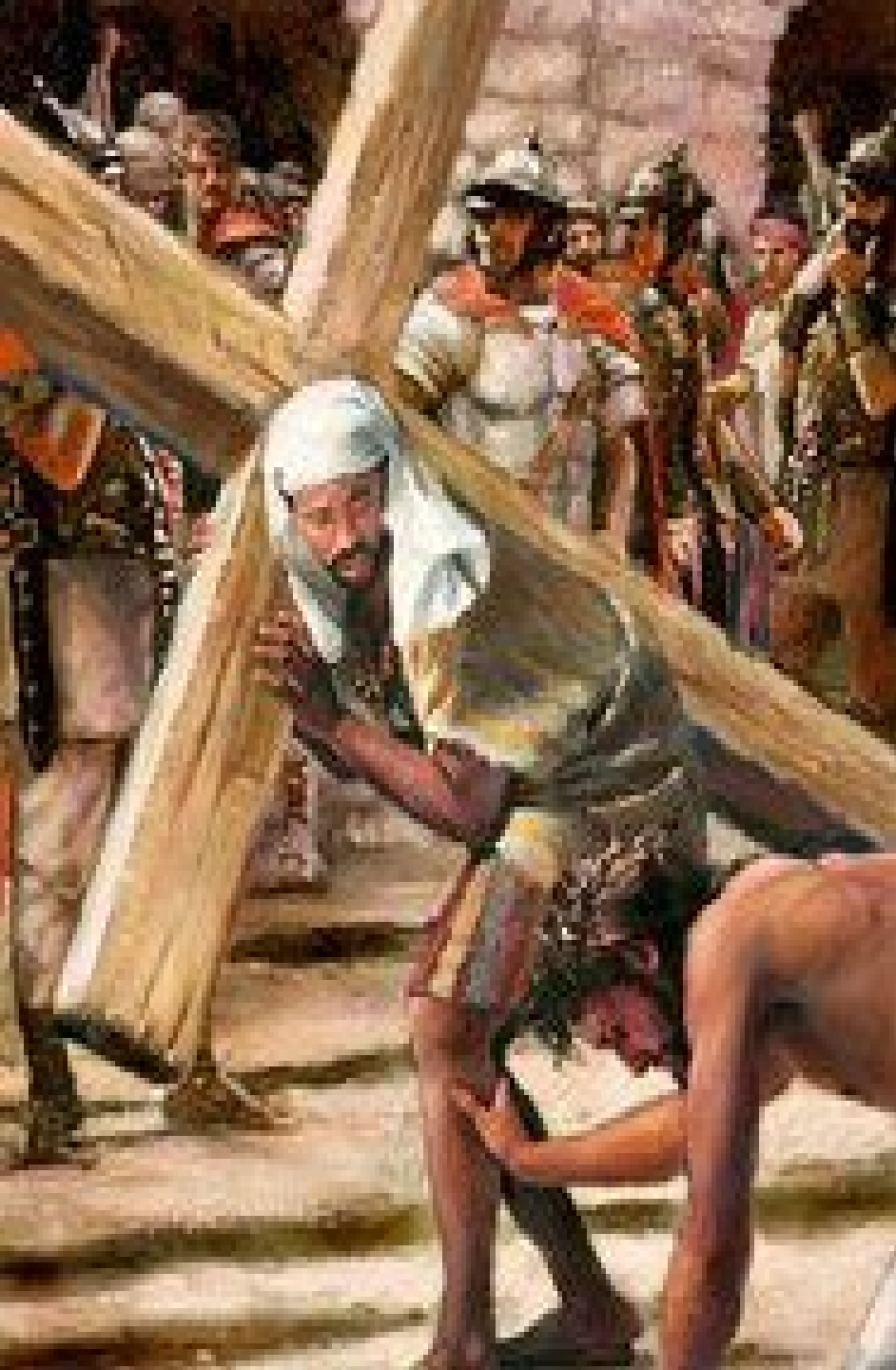
# The Old Rugged Cross: The Scripture

- We know from the Gospels that Christ was:
  - Betrayed with a kiss (Matthew 26:49)
  - Spat upon (Matthew 26:67)
  - Beaten/Scourged (Matthew 27:26)
  - Forced to carry his own Cross until He sank under its weight (John 19:17)
  - Stripped of His clothes (Matthew 27:28, 35)
  - Nailed to the Cross (referenced in John 20:25, 27)
  - And was further ridiculed and mocked while on the Cross (Matthew 27:39-44)
- It is clear, there was much suffering, shame, and reproach associated with the Cross.



# The Old Rugged Cross: The Scripture

- How then, can we cherish the old rugged Cross?
- We cherish the Cross because it is there that our redemption was purchased with the blood of our Savior. We were sinners, estranged from a righteous and holy God, and dead in our transgressions (Eph 2:1), unable to reconcile ourselves through the law, and deserving of death. But through Christ's work on the Cross, God reconciled us to Himself.
  - *"When we were unable to help ourselves, at the moment of our need, Christ died for us, although we were living against God. Very few people will die to save the life of someone else. Although perhaps for a good person someone might possibly die. But God shows His great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners. So through Christ we will surely be saved from God's anger, because we have been made right with God by the blood of Christ's death."* Romans 5:6-9
  - *"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."* 1 Peter 2:21-25
- His work on the Cross was indeed "to pardon and sanctify me" (and you, and all who would accept Him)



# The Old Rugged Cross: The Scripture

- I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross...
- Because of Christ's redemptive work on the Cross, has our path been made rosy and clear?
- Like Simon of Cyrene, we are asked to take up the Cross and follow behind Christ.
  - *"Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?" Matthew 16:24-26*
- We saw what the Cross was like for Christ. We do not know what that path will look like for us, but we know it will be difficult if we are truly following after Him.
  - *"So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. Therefore let us go to Him outside the camp and bear the reproach He endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come." Hebrews 13:12-14*



# The Old Rugged Cross: The Scripture

- ...and exchange it someday for a crown.
- What of exchanging it someday for a crown? Is that scriptural?
- *“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”* 2 Timothy 4:8
- *“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.”* James 1:12
- *“And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”* 1 Peter 5:4

# The Old Rugged Cross: Reflection

Why does The Old Rugged Cross still resonate more than 100 years after it was written?

Why is this hymn meaningful to you?



# The Music



# Final Thoughts/Comments

