Crossing Over (Acts 26:18)

Tony Mauck · John 5:24

INTRODUCTION

- I want to begin this morning with a term we hear a lot. It's the term crossover.
- But I want to speak to you of a crossover of greater import.
- If you could just remember one thing this morning, it would be this text in John chapter 5 and verse 24.

1 Crossed Over From Death to Life

John 5:19–29; Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 1:13

- Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged, but has crossed over. Has crossed over from death to life.
- You who were dead in your trespasses and sins, Ephesians chapter 2 and verse 1, are made alive.
- For an hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs shall hear his voice and shall come forth.
- So the answers that Jesus gives are both literal and spiritual and physical. He gives life to the dead.
- He delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us. There's your crossover.

2 Christians Who Have Failed to Cross Over

Acts 26:18; 1 Peter 1:22–23

- There are a lot of people in our world who are Christians, but sadly, they have failed to cross over death to life.
- He does this by altering the message, by watering down the words of the Son to mean something or to say something that they do not say.
- Diligence, endurance, these are concepts that are often removed or watered down to make the gospel something other than it really is.
- If we are born of the word and born of the truth, then the nature of the message believed really determines whether or not we are truly Christians and have crossed over.
- Since you have, in obedience to the truth, purified your souls. That's how crossover happens.

3 The Glorious Crossover Event

Acts 22:16; Colossians 2:12–13

- All the fears that we have about why we shouldn't cross over from death to life and serve the Lord. Those are all just temporary, but we're talking about eternal matters here.
- The most significant decision you will ever make is this crossover event.

- Salvation by faith, properly defined, trusting in God's saving words. And the Son's saving words are that we are to be baptized into him for the remission of our sins.
- Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were raised up with him through faith and the working of God who raised him from the dead.
- Faith that leads me to repent and change my direction in life, to be baptized for the remission of my sins, rising to walk in newness of life. I then came into relationship with Christ.

4 Crossover Attitudes

John 5:39–44; 1 Peter 5:6

- This crossing over from death unto life, requires a certain mindset or attitude which tragically was not present in his audience who heard these words in John chapter 5.
- You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life. And it is these that bear witness of me.
- Number one, there must be an honest and humble approach to God's message.
- Secondly, he says, you do not have the love of God in yourselves. Crossing over involves having a primary aim to cultivate, to emulate and imitate the love of God.
- We must seek his glory, not our own. We must extol his power, not our own. We must advance his cause, not our own.

THE CHALLENGE

If you don't cross over now, there will be no crossing over then. Take advantage of the time.

MY NOTES