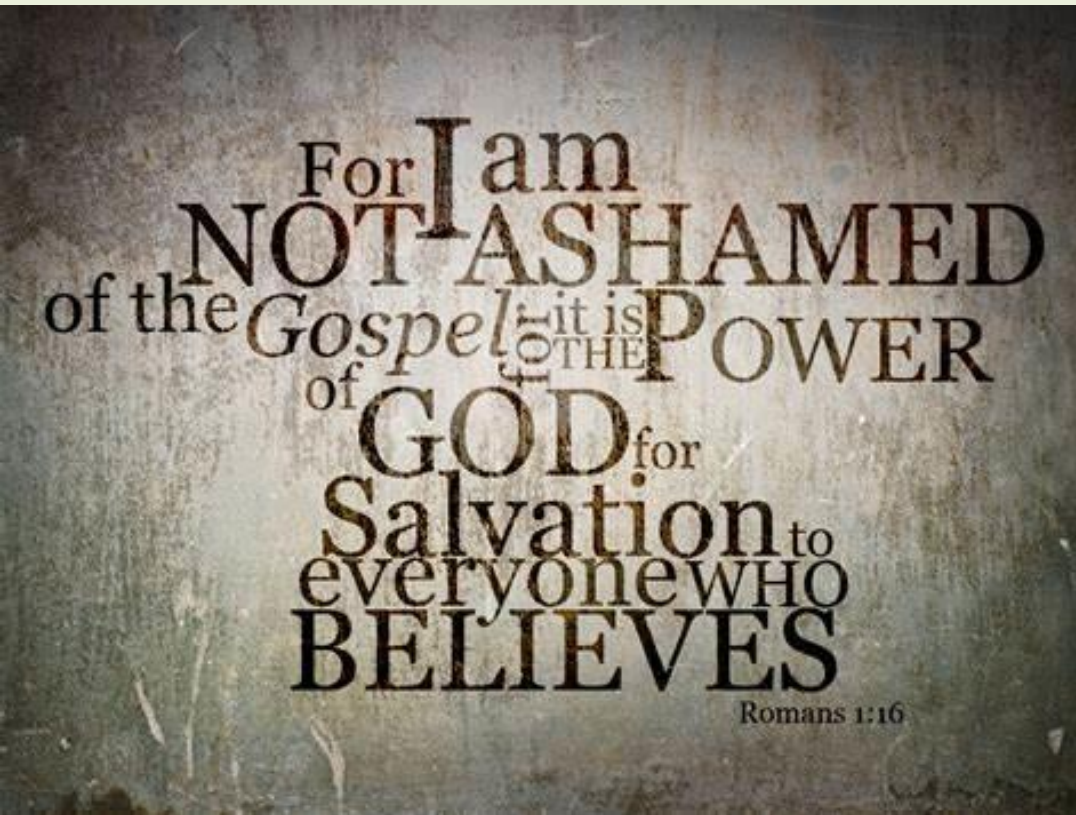


# THE GOSPEL IN US

## 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1

The power of Christianity is the gospel. The gospel is not good news because it makes us feel good about ourselves it usually doesn't. The gospel is 1<sup>st</sup> a message of repentance. Its initial message is that we are broken as individuals and as societies. This can only be solved when we as individuals admit we are thinking wrong and bring our thoughts, actions and relationships into alignment with God's mind and purpose – this is repentance. The problem is that humans all have a sin nature and desire self-aggrandizement, self-fulfillment and selfish pleasures. Then we tend to elevate these desires of our sin nature above the will of God. The gospel is the answer to this problem.



## 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1

**1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,** 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

# “TO DRINK THE CUP”

## MARK 14:36 & 10:38

Tomorrow we celebrate Memorial Day. Originally it was called Decoration Day, when people following the Civil War would decorate the graves of those who had fallen in service to their country. After WW1 it was made a national holiday to honor those military personnel who had died in service to our country. Tomorrow take time to remember those who have selflessly given their lives in service to our nation. A special thank you to each one here who is serving or has served in the military, we owe you a debt of gratitude for protecting our freedoms.

Christians celebrated the death of martyrs [those who had given witness by death] in the Spring of the year often in May. It was a time to remember the lives of friends and family who had died and were now hid in Christ.

Garrison COG May 30, 2021



# Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2021

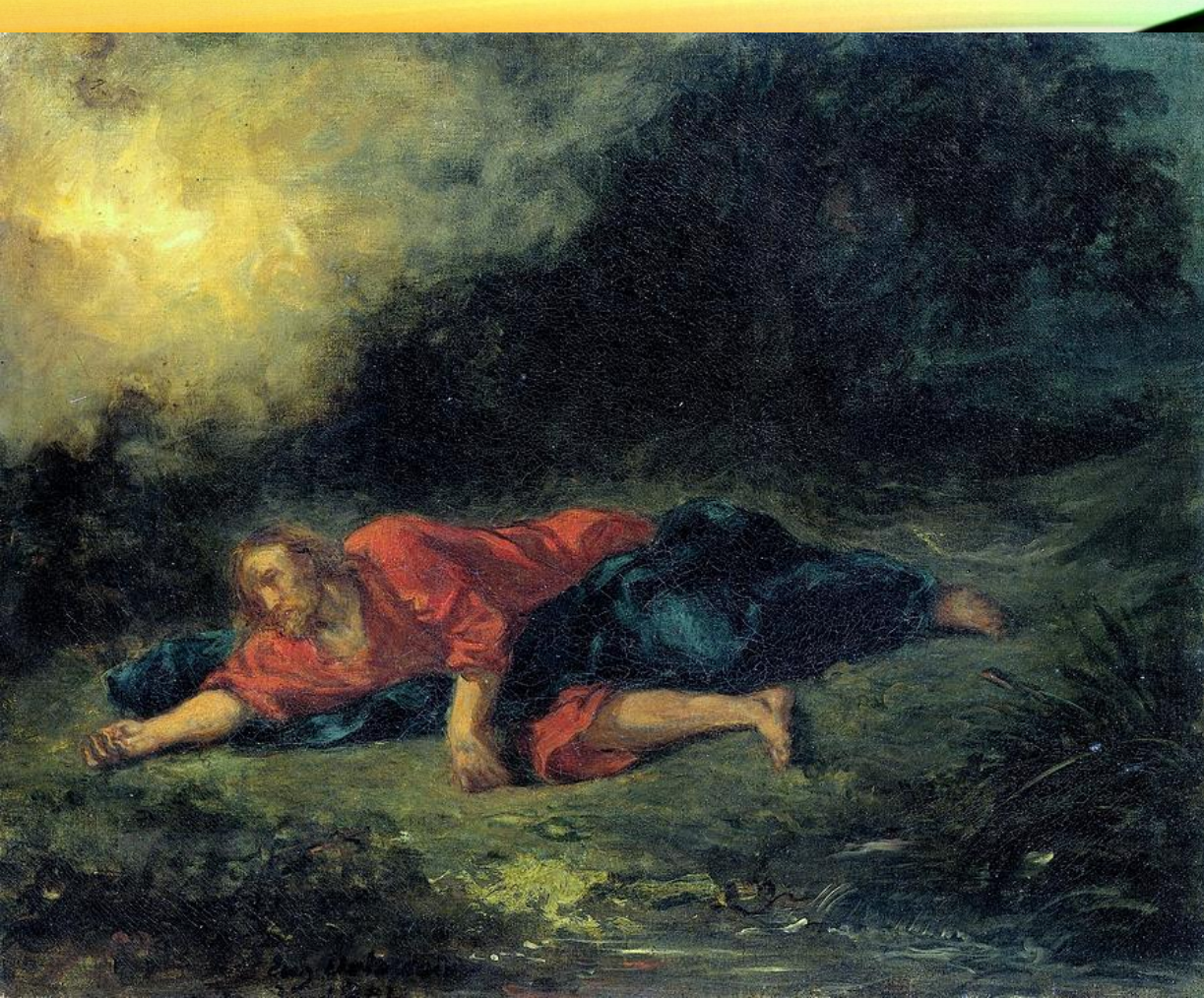
Series: The Gospel In Us – 1 Cor. 15:1

14:36 And He said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.”

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10:38 But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

39 They said to Him, “We are able.” So Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;...



“Christ in Gethsemane” by Eugene Delacroix [1798-1863]. This was one of his last paintings before his death. He had done a more stylized one in 1824, this likely reflected his own suffering.

## “TO DRINK THE CUP”

MARK 14:36 & 10:38

Often when we think of Christ in Gethsemane we picture him much like the stained glass window behind me. But in the gospel texts it indicates that Jesus fell flat on the ground and mourned before the Father. It is a painful scene wrought with suffering and fear and loneliness. This painting captures the duress of the moment.

In this moment, Jesus struggled with his desire not to suffer or die. This more than any other moment reflects the power of the the incarnation. Jesus in this moment of struggle accepted the cup of suffering. The text reflects the depth oh his sorrow and his determination in the face of of what would come. This moment had a profound impact on Paul and the writer of Hebrews who refer to the obedience of Jesus Christ in suffering.



“Christ in Gethsemane” by Eugene Delacroix [1798-1863]. This was one of his last paintings before his death. He had done a more stylized one in 1824, this likely reflected his own suffering.

## “TO DRINK THE CUP”

MARK 14:36 & 10:38

For Paul and the writer of Hebrews under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit reflect a theology of suffering. That in Christ, our suffering has meaning and purpose.

Hebrews 5:6-10

6 As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”; 7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, 10 called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,”...



## “TO DRINK THE CUP”

MARK 14:36 & 10:38

James and John were cousins of Jesus, Their mother is believed to have been Salome' who was the sister of Mary.

James and John by having their mother initiate this was clearly playing on their family connection. They were clearly to fence Peter out in what they viewed as prime positions in the kingdom. It seems clear that Peter and Zebedee's family while partners in fishing had a behind the scenes rivalry going. Peter and Andrew were the newcomers to Capernaum and so were to some extent at the mercy of Zebedee in business connections. James and John may well have felt that due to their family relationship as well as their social standing that they deserved to be put ahead of Peter in priority. The tension of the moment is reflected in both Mathew and Mark's gospel.

The other disciples are furious about this seeming end-run. After all they were all going to Jerusalem expecting the kingdom to be established.

Christ implored by the mother of James and John to give her sons preference in His kingdom. Sunday School card.



## “TO DRINK THE CUP” MARK 14:36 & 10:38

What Jesus challenged them with is not position but the cup of suffering. He makes it clear that the decision about positions in the kingdom is not to be determined by relationship or social standing but by the will of God and a heart of service.

While Jesus does not rebuke them for their desire, he does rebuke their [and the rest of the disciples] attitude. He reiterates that position in the kingdom is based on a willingness to serve. But he respects the willingness of James and John to drink of the cup of suffering.

James would be the first of the apostles martyred for the Christian faith. John would be tortured and sent to a labor camp for his faith in Christ. In fact, all 12 would face suffering and all but John would die martyrs' deaths. Paul understood our suffering in life connected with the suffering of Jesus Christ in his crucifixion. **Philippians 3:10-11**

Christ implored by the mother of James and John to give her sons preference in His kingdom. Sunday School card.



...10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

# “TO DRINK THE CUP”

## MARK 14:36 & 10:38

Since 2009 over 36,000 of our Christian brothers and sisters have been murdered for their faith by Islamic Jihadists in the first 4 months of 2021, 1,470 have been martyred and 2200 have been kidnapped, far outpacing previous years. Nigeria has experienced the most sever persecution of Christians in the world. The rise of Christian persecution around the world has been dramatic in the last 10 years. Little is being done by Western governments to stem the tide of Christian genocide around the world. **1 Corinthians 12:23-26**



A Nigerian Christian at prayers .

# 1 CORINTHIANS 12:23-26

## 1 Corinthians 12:23-26

23 And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty, 24 but our presentable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*.

## “TO DRINK THE CUP” MARK 14:36 & 10:38

In Mark 10 just ahead of this incident with Jesus' disciples Jesus is approached by a wealthy young man who wants to know how to inherit eternal life. Jesus challenges him on the law of Moses. When the young man affirmed that he had lived a virtuous life. Jesus does not challenge this young man's integrity, but it says that he looked at him and “loved him”. He invites him to be an apostle to give all he has away and take up the cross of apostleship. This is what stands behind the actions of James and John. They and their mother had given up a great deal to follow Jesus.

Mark 10:21-22



The Rich Young Man by Harold Copping

The Rich Young Man by Harold  
Copping

## MARK 10:21-22

21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

# “TO DRINK THE CUP”

MARK 14:36 & 10:38



The taking up of the cross is the call of discipleship. In the Roman world it was the ultimate symbol of suffering and shame

Unlike modern American Christianity there was within ancient Christian understand the reality of real suffering. Christians were not to go out of their way to seek suffering, but they were not to shirk it, either. It was part of the calling of discipleship. We carry the cross spiritually knowing that at any time we may called to lay down on it and suffer for the cause of Christ.

## “TO DRINK THE CUP” MARK 14:36 & 10:38

Polycarp was facing active persecution by Roman magistrates. He avoided capture until they began torturing his household servants to discover his location. He surrendered when they came for him he was probably in his late 80s or early 90s. He had been a disciple John the Apostle when he was a teenager. Polycarp's prayer is recorded in a letter sent by the church of Smyrna to their sister churches following the death of Polycarp and many of the brothers and sisters from their community.



Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna,  
martyred in 155 or 156. Engraving  
by Michael Burghers, 1685

**Series: The Gospel In Us – 1 Cor. 15:1**

Garrison COG May 30, 2021

# "TO DRINK THE CUP" MARK 14:36 & 10:38

"O Lord God Almighty, the Father of thy beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the knowledge of Thee, the God of angels and powers, and of every creature, and of the whole race of the righteous who live before thee, I give Thee thanks that Thou hast counted me, worthy of this day and this hour, that I should have a part in the number of Thy martyrs, in the cup of thy Christ, to the resurrection of eternal life, both of soul and body, through the incorruption [imparted] by the Holy Ghost. Among whom may I be accepted this day before Thee as a fat and acceptable sacrifice, according as Thou, the ever-truthful God, hast fore-ordained, hast revealed beforehand to me, and now hast fulfilled. Wherefore also I praise Thee for all things, I bless Thee, I glorify Thee, along with the everlasting and heavenly Jesus Christ, Thy beloved Son, with whom, to Thee, and the Holy Ghost, be glory both now and to all coming ages. Amen."



Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna,  
martyred in 155 or 156. Engraving  
by Michael Burghers, 1685





## “TO DRINK THE CUP” MARK 14:36 & 10:38

Taking up the cross also means living for Christ. When we do it changes us from the inside out. We become better people than we were. Lee Strobel in a testimony he shared at Passion City Church on July 3, 2018 reflects this change of heart that happens when we surrender to Jesus Christ, pick up the cross and begin to follow him. As we become willing to drink the cup of his suffering we become the person God really wants us to be. Lee Strobel in this testimony is very honest about who he had been prior to becoming a Christian. His following of the gospel transformed his family. Here is the link:

Lee Strobel author of “The Case For Christ”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67uj2qvQi\\_k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67uj2qvQi_k)

# "TO DRINK THE CUP" MARK 14:36 & 10:38

For I am  
**NOT ASHAMED**  
of the Gospel it is **THE POWER**  
of **GOD** for  
Salvation to  
everyone who  
**BELIEVES**  
Romans 1:16

**Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain.**  
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

The Gospel makes sense of every aspect of our lives even the suffering.