

“Christ is the center of our home, a guest at every meal, and a listener of every conversation.”

– author unknown

Christ is the center of our home

Unless a home is built on Christ and His teachings, it will not withstand the trials of life. **“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it”** (Psalm 127:1). Jesus said a wise builder is one who hears His sayings and does them, while a foolish builder disregards them (Matthew 7:24-27). Ephesians 5:22 -- 6:4 gives specific instructions to husbands, wives, and children on how to have a Christ-centered home. Husbands are to love their wives, wives are to submit to their husbands, and children are to obey their parents.

Christ is a guest at every meal

We are to be thankful for our food (1 Timothy 4:4-5). Jesus Himself gave thanks before feeding the multitudes (Matthew 15:36). In spite of being in great peril at sea, Paul remembered to give thanks for his food (Acts 27:35).

Christ is a listener of every conversation

Nothing is hidden from Him (Hebrews 4:13). In Matthew 12:36-37, Jesus warns against careless words. Moreover, private conversations do not always remain private. **“Do not curse the king, even in your thought; do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom; for a bird of the air may carry your voice, and a bird in flight may tell the matter”** (Ecclesiastes 10:20).

Is Christ the center of your home? You, individually, must first make Him the center of your own life. **“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth”** (Colossians 3:1-2).

From Calvary to Golgotha

by Bill Crews

continued from page 2

At Golgotha, the Place of the Crucifixion

“Golgotha,” which means “the place of the skull,” was outside the city of Jerusalem, probably on the north side. All four writers state, simply, that He was crucified (Matt. 27:35; Mk. 15:24; Lk. 23:33; Jn. 19:18), without giving the details involved in such an execution. First century readers knew all too well. The body was suspended on a heavy, rough wooden structure by four large spike-like nails driven through hands and feet. The pain was horribly excruciating and affected the entire body in a variety of cruel ways; it usually lasted for a few days before death came. **“And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself: if thou art the Son of God, come down from the cross. In like manner also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. He is the King of Israel; let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe on him. He trusteth on God; let him deliver him now, if he desireth him: for he said, I am the Son of God. And the robbers also that were crucified with him cast upon him the same reproach”** (Matt. 27:39-44). And, as if all this were not enough, that He might truly bear the guilt of our sins and become an all-sufficient Savior for us, this had to happen: **“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”** (Matt. 27:46). Four verses later, His death.