



I Saw the Cross of Jesus

My favorite memory of reading *A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS* as a high school senior was when Pilgrim climbed to the foot of the cross and his burdensome knapsack tumbled into the regions of his past difficulties. Since then I have seen many artist's renderings of that scene, and their visual interpretations seem to always match my initial joy.

This is one of those personal testimony hymns that we sing corporately. "I" and the person next to me, two pews ahead of me, four pews behind me, stand together and testify that we have "seen" the cross, and in that experience we have found our life's redemption and our soul's profound peace. This is a truth we experience personally and share corporately in song.

Again using the first-person pronoun, we sing of our love of that revealing cross, exposing who we really are down deep. We voice our trust in that old rugged cross because it is our sure and certain refuge, our never-failing tower.

Finally, safety is ours at the foot of the cross where we can be still and rest in unshakable peace until we join the everlasting song of glory.

In like manner, we sing in another gospel song: "At the cross ...the burden of my heart rolled away." In yet another: "Burdens are lifted at Calvary." We seem to harbor a deep need to sing of our release from the things which weigh us down, slow us down, make us less effective. It's a worthy theme, so sing on, people of God!

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