

The Barnabas Letter

We are fast approaching the holiday season. In just a very few months we will be getting ready for the Christmas rush. But if we would just stop and think for a minute we would not allow ourselves to be caught up in any of the secular madness that will begin in a very short time. It is now September and on the fourteenth of this month there is a little known feast of the church called the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This simple feast, that commemorates the victory won for us by our Lord Jesus Christ on that cruel cross, should make us pause and remember that this is the reality of Christian faith! Our Lord Jesus Christ came to save us from our richly deserved fate! The Lord did not come because we were so wonderful that He just had to come to visit us. On the contrary, we were and, for the most part, still are terrible sinners. God detests sin to the point that where sin is God is not present and if God is not present then we are in hell, pure and simple. But our God loves us. Rebels that we are, our God still loves us. Therefore our Lord Jesus Christ came to us in human flesh, born of a virgin in a backwater little town in an insignificant part of the Roman Empire. The Lord of Glory was born, literally, in a barn because his earthly parents had no money and not enough prestige to find a room at the only inn in town. Our Lord Jesus was reared in a town that was considered to be a place loaded with hopelessly countrified folks, we call them hillbillies, then to top all of this off, our Lord was executed in the cruelest way that the Romans could devise. Of course, on the third day our Lord rose again from the grave and He set us free from sin, death, and the very devil himself! That is what this little feast of the church is all about. We exalt the Holy Cross because it was upon the cross that our Lord suffered and died, for us! Christ Jesus did this completely out of pure love for us; we deserved to be on that

cross, not Jesus! So then, when the secular world tries as it will, to suck you into the “Holiday Spirit,” remember this little feast of the Holy Cross. Then remember that Christmas leads us inevitably to Easter and that to get to Easter we must first pass through Good Friday. Our Lord Jesus has come to give us life eternal in His glorious presence and that; therefore, the greatest gift of all has already been given. Let us live out our gratitude by living out the Gospel every single day of our lives. Until next month, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Your brother in Christ Jesus:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor N.W." The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive style, and "N.W." follows in a similar but slightly more upright cursive.