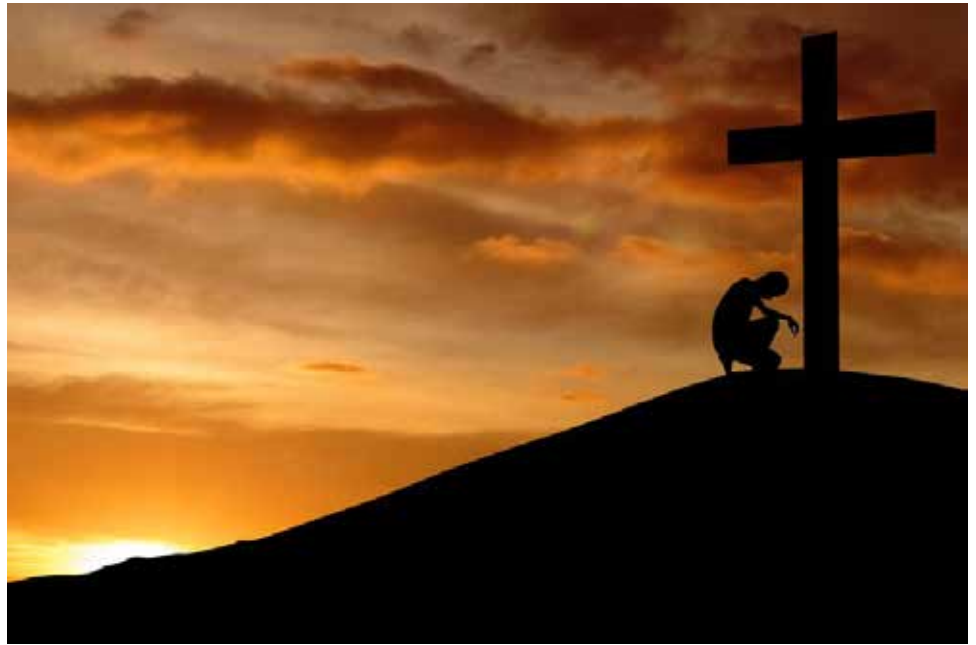


*“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because **Thou Hast Left Thy First Love**. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” **Revelation 2:4-5** KJV*



Remember when you first came to Christ? Perhaps as a child, you simply believed and obeyed the Truth of the Gospel, that without His Mercy and the repentance of faith you were destined for eternal damnation. Or you were overwhelmed with a sense of your own inadequacy and the Truth offered you a way of escape. I'm quite sure there are as many scenarios as there are repentant sinners, but the one thing that unites us all is the knowledge of our damning sin and the Offer of Mercy and Forgiveness freely given to any who call. We often consider ourselves to have “moved on” from that first meeting with the Saviour, but it is to our detriment to forget that point at which we found ourselves seeking the Love of God and the relief that joyously flooded our soul the moment we first believed! It might have been a quiet Joy that simply rose in our heart like a soft sunrise, or a flood of relief in our hearts like a lighthouse piercing a stormy night! Either way, it was the Light of the Glorious Gospel that illuminated our darkness and opened our blinded eyes to the Truth that Jesus Loves even me! *“We love Him, because (we found out) He first Loved us!”* Our “*first love*” is the Light of our Life! *“A lively Hope that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for you, Who are kept by the Power of God through faith unto Salvation ready to be revealed in the Last Time. In Him (the Word) was Life; and the Life was the Light of men. But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the Light of the Glorious Gospel of Christ, Who is the Image of God, should shine unto them.”* It is when unbelief blinds our souls that we cannot see that brilliant Light of Truth to guide our steps that we fall into sin. If you find yourself in disgust and despair, go back down memory lane and revisit your first Love!

But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of Love I owe:  
Here, Lord, I give myself away, 'tis all that I can do.  
At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the Light,  
And the burden of my heart rolled away,  
It was there by faith I received my sight,  
And now I am happy all the day. – Ralph E. Hudson, 1885

*“If we walk in the Light as He is in the Light,”* others will gladly join us, because they will discover as we did, *“God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all!”* Those with sight can perceive the tiniest flicker of light in total darkness and will seek it out. Our loving obedience to God's Word is *“Christ in us is the Hope of Glory”* that draws men to His Light. Never forget!

*“Ye are the Light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your Light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16 KJV*