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# East Columbus Bulletin

## Changing the Standard

As the orchestra was about to begin their rehearsal, the conductor summoned their attention:

“Please get out your pencils. We have some marking to do on this particular piece. The first two measures are in a 3-4 time signature, not 4-4 as written. Next, in the 5th measure, change it to a 7-8 time signature, and this remains in effect until the end. Now, in measure number 7 we will lower the pitch 1/2 step. In measure number 13, lower the pitch one whole step, and this will remain to the end. Okay? Now, let’s begin.”

The soprano soloist spoke up, “Excuse me, Maestro. What would you like for me to change?” “Nothing, madam,” the conductor replied with the slightest hint of sarcasm. “Just sing it exactly as you did yesterday.”

When a musician varies from the written music, there are two options that allow the performer and the music to be reconciled. Either the musician must alter his or her performance to accurately reflect the musical composition, or (as in the above story) the music must be rewritten to accommodate the performance (i.e. errors) of the musician.

Essentially the same is true in every other area of life. When one deviates from a standard, either he or she can alter their conduct to comply with the given standard or the standard can be manipulated to justify the otherwise unjustifiable conduct.

### Times of Services

#### Sunday

9:00 a.m. Bible Study  
10:00 a.m. Worship

#### Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

### Other Study and Worship Opportunities

Sundays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. The Pines/Cady Hills Bible Study

Our Gospel Meeting – April 26,27,28 at 7:00 p.m. with Tom Holley

### News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Willena Woods.
- **Prayer Requests:** Doug and Pat Wheeler, Steve Coburn. Doris Young, LaNette Coburn’s mother, is bedridden but doing as well as she can.
- **Others to Remember:** Wade McCrary, Jim Ratcliff, Jerry Paschall, Elbert Logan, Mike & Marion Butler, Lee Gallop. Willena Woods is at Windsor Place (visits available by appointment only).
- **Sick:** Pat Wheeler is receiving treatments for pancreatic cancer. Steve Coburn is rehabilitating from a collapsed lung. Steve Linville, nephew of Kathy Paschall, is critically ill and in need of our prayers.

### Contact Information:

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Certainly we can see the spiritual application. The Word of God is our standard. When we find ourselves or someone else thinking, speaking, or acting in a way that is contrary to the standard, what should we do? Should we correct the error and be reconciled to the standard, or should we attempt to change the standard so that the conduct is no longer condemned? What if someone is teaching that which is not in harmony with the standard, God's Word? Do we hold firmly to the standard and require them to comply, or do we attempt to change or allow them to change the standard?

Here's the real question — are we going to trust human beings to set the standard or are we going to rely on the Word of the Lord?

"All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord endures forever" (1 Peter 1:24-25)

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

Human beings are frail mortals with the distinct capacity for failure. God is eternally infallible, and His Word is complete and perfect (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3). It does not need altering, updating, or modification (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:6; 2 John 9-11; Revelation 22:18-19). It will stand as it is — the perfect standard to judge all of mankind (John 12:48).

There is really no choice at all — the standard cannot be changed! Any feeble effort to do so will meet with the wrath of the standard's Author, Almighty God. Altering the scales won't fix our weight problems, breaking the mirror won't change the way we look, and changing (or ignoring) God's Word won't make our sinful behavior acceptable. Our only option is to comply and to insist that those who teach us do the same!

Jeremy Paschall, Carriage Drive Church of Christ, January 24, 2021

## **The Old Rugged Cross**

I love the old hymns, and one of my favorites is "The Old Rugged Cross." Few hymns more powerfully call to mind the cross of Calvary than this

one. Consider the stanza, "Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me."

To the child of God, the cross of Jesus Christ is, indeed, a wondrous attraction. While the world rarely if ever contemplates the cross, it is the very heart of who we are as Christians. What makes the cross of Jesus so significant? Just what does it represent?

The cross represents the ultimate in SUFFERING. The Romans perfected crucifixion as a means of slow, agonizing, torturous death. The nails were driven through the nerve centers of the hands and feet. The most subtle movement would wrack the body with excruciating pain. As the crucified became weak from dehydration and blood loss, it became difficult to lift the body up to exhale and death came slowly by asphyxiation.

The cross represents the ultimate in SHAME. Crucifixion was a humiliating spectacle to behold. It was generally reserved for the basest of criminals or for enemies of the state. Such were naked or nearly so. Jesus, "for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame" (Hebrews 12:2). Another great song reminds us "Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned he stood; sealed my pardon with his blood. Hallelujah! What a Savior!"

The cross represents the ultimate in SIN. No, it was not for some evil that He had done that our Savior had to die. He did no sin (1 Peter 2:22). He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). God made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus took with Him the sins of the world to the cross, the sinless dying for the sinner. Though Jesus did nothing worthy of death, He took upon Him our sins that we might be set free (Isaiah 53:6-12).

The cross represents the ultimate in SALVATION. To most, a cross is an ugly symbol of death; to the Christian, it is a glorious symbol of life! Without the cross, man is helpless, hopeless, and hell-bound. Thanks to God for the offering of His Son upon the cross! "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Ken Green, Kemper Heights Church of Christ