

Reflections

Volume 67

*International
Catholic Family Newsletter*

March 2021

Overcoming the Enemy of God Deadly Persecution of Christians in Nigeria Billy Graham Last Message-Meaning of The Cross

Blessing to All:

By: Richard Pickard

Overcoming the Evil One each day is something that we all face. Satan does not make big moves to steal the grace within our souls. He chips away, little by little. You will barely notice any changes in your spiritual thought process until you lose the grace within you. For some men, addiction to pornography is presented in little ways to the eyes. Not all at once, but over time. Someone sends an email that has a few photos of women scantily clad. You think nothing of it. But over time, without prayer in your life, you succumb to more explicit photos and eventually you are hooked.

Women also are subject to the traps set by Satan. Each of us knows what causes us to lose sanctifying grace within our souls. God allows us to feel guilty about sins we commit and our unchristian actions towards others. The time to be afraid of temptations, is when we "**do not feel guilty**" about giving in to these temptations. Over time, the addiction from whatever source, controls us.



Satan knows our weaknesses and sets traps for us. Satan's bait is made to look **so good** you overlook the trap. Whether scratched or scarred you always get hurt giving in to Temptation.



Think of the most recent time that Satan presented specific temptations to you. Don't try to think past this...**just see what was presented to you!**

Most probably it was a temptation that has worked for Satan many times against your will to fight it off.

Satan and his fallen angels hate you! But they know that by presenting temptations to you in little batches, they can eventually find a stronger temptation that will steal the grace within your soul. Then they "HAVE YOU".

Sometimes our **PRIDE** is used by Satan to resist God's grace of forgiveness when something small and insignificant has happened to us.

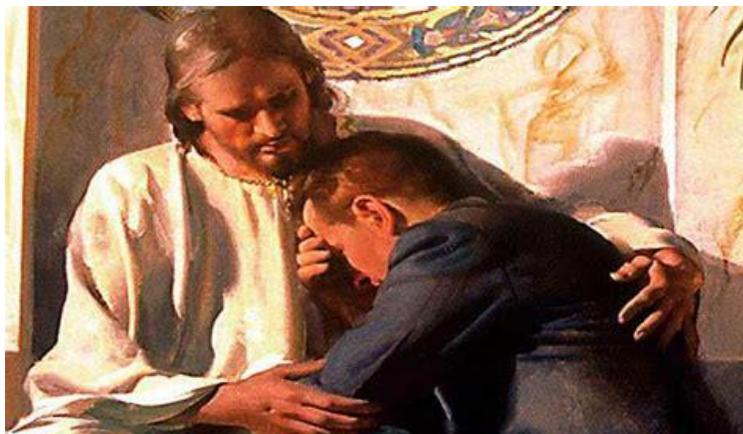
A good defense against our weaknesses is by saying an Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be when tempted.



Also, regular "honest" confessions, no matter how many times you have fallen into venial or mortal sin. **Keep going to confession.**

Don't overlook Our Blessed Mother's help. She especially wants to help you, so don't forget to talk to her about your repetitive sins. She is a strong advocate for you, to her son Jesus.

Sometimes we all forget that we are a **part of God's family**. That includes Jesus, Holy Spirit, Our Blessed Mother, Angels, Communion of Saints and **YOU!** When we get into trouble, **run to God's family for help**. You are loved and will be forgiven, and graces will flow into your soul. **The defeat of Satan takes all of us praying for each other.**



If you or you know of someone who is struggling with serious temptations, **PLEASE PRAY FOR THEM EACH DAY**. Jesus heals sinners. That was His mission. To save sinners. Ask Jesus to help.



Our **Pride is a great stumbling block** in making a good and honest confession. Don't hold back. The Priest has heard it all and actually, you are confessing to Jesus. So unload.

Saint Faustina was chosen by Jesus to tell us that His Divine Mercy is **ALWAYS THERE FOR US**. **Here is advice from her on making a good confession. Be humble and honest.**

"A soul does not benefit as it should from the sacrament of confession if it is not humble. Pride keeps it in darkness. The soul neither knows how, nor is it willing, to probe with precision the depths of its own misery. It puts on a mask and avoids everything that might bring it recovery." St. Faustina



The Ongoing Persecution of Christians in Nigeria



By: Patrick Tyrrell. Tyrrell is a research coordinator in The Heritage Foundation's Center for International Trade and Economics

Nigeria, a nation of close to 200 million, is made up about evenly of Christians and Muslims. Christians live predominantly in the South; Muslims are the majority in the North.



The martyrs of Nigeria Photo

Nigeria is becoming the "biggest killing ground of Christians in the world" due to attacks by Boko Haram and Fulani militants, says a leading charity. International Christian Concern (ICC) estimates between **50,000 and 70,000** Christians have been killed in the last decade in the West African nation, the most populous on the continent.

Continual violent attacks by Boko Haram and Fulani Islamic militants have affected families and churches, leaving many Christians without spouses, parents, and homes. But faithful believers continue to follow and serve Christ in Nigeria. As our Nigerian brothers and sisters in Christ endure such persecution for Christ's sake, you can stand with them through your prayers.



The perpetrators of the killings seek to create a state like the so-called caliphate that took hold in parts of Iraq and Syria between 2014 and 2015.

Increasingly, the attackers have included another group, militant nomadic Fulani herdsman who raid villages and kill Christian men, women, children, and babies with AK-47s and machetes.

The Fulani are a massive tribe that stretches across many African countries. The vast majority of the tribe's members aren't guilty of mass murder and shouldn't be lumped in with the militant segment that is committing the atrocities.

Some in the government of Nigeria, which notoriously lacks the rule of law, have been complicit in the attacks. Data on cellphones inadvertently left behind by the killers identified owners of the phones as government insiders. Police are also complicit, according to reports. Some police stations haven't responded to brutal

anti-Christian violence even when loud gunfire and screams are clearly audible from less than a mile away.

Such inaction by police is common when victims aren't Christians. The terrorists also have benefited from millions of dollars in ransom payments, leading Nigeria to be called the kidnapping capital of Africa. Nigeria should protect the rule of law by using its military to confront and crush the perpetrators.

As the entry on Nigeria in The Heritage Foundation's 2020 Index of Economic Freedom shows, the country is among the worst in the world in supporting the rule of law. The most heinous forms of cruelty and brutality go unopposed. Terror reigns in Christian villages.

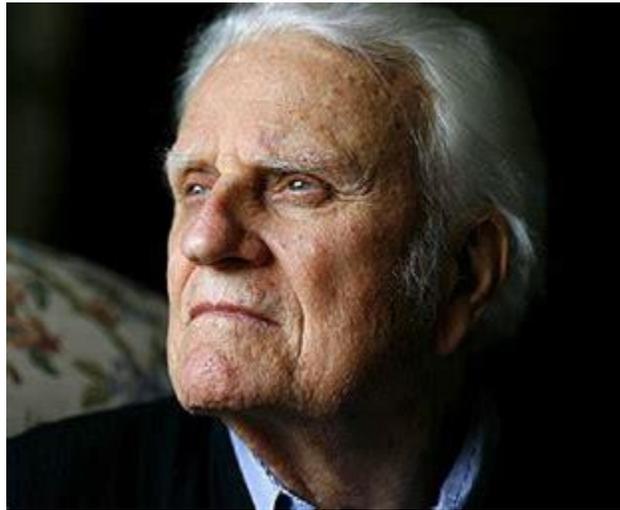
A new book titled "The Next Jihad: Stop the Christian Genocide in Africa" documents atrocities and warns that all-out genocide could happen if Nigeria's government and the world's media organizations don't stop turning a blind eye to what is going on. The authors, both Americans, journeyed to the scene of attacks from January through March in which more than 400 Christians lost their lives. ***The authors interviewed many survivors whose lives have been ruined, reporting:***



"The Fulani raiders arrived under cover of darkness with their jihadist chants and their AK-47s. The marauders swiftly maimed and murdered Christians while burning down every structure and pillaging what remained."

"Hundreds of similar incidents have occurred. We reviewed one confidential list that precisely documents attacks by Fulani militants on seventy-nine Christian villages over the last five years in one state alone. Yet we haven't identified a single case where the perpetrators were brought to justice or where security forces prevented an attack."

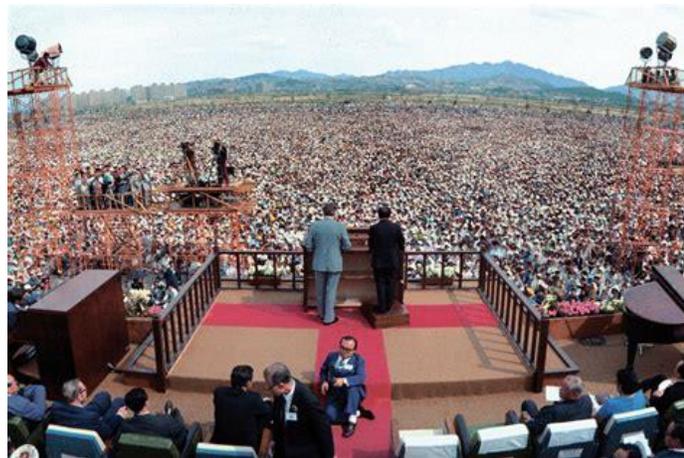
Remember to keep persecuted Christians in your daily prayers. Please



Billy Graham 1918-2018

The Cross – Message to America & the World

Given November 6, 2013 when he was 95 years old.



When I look back over my life. It's full of surprises. I never thought I would become friends with people in different countries all over the world. I see how God's hand guided me. When I began preaching many years ago. It was without any thought that I'd be preaching to large audiences. God has done this.

In modern America today, there is a vacuum of the soul. Our country is in a great need of a spiritual awakening. There have been times that I've wept, as I've gone from city to city. I have seen how far people have wandered from God.



Of all the things that I've seen and heard, there's only one message that can change people's lives and hearts. There is a way if you come by the way of the Cross. I want to tell people of the meaning of the Cross. Not the Cross that hangs on the wall or around someone's neck. But the real Cross of Christ. The Cross expresses the great love of God for us. It's scarred and blood stained. His was a rugged Cross. We receive our freedom from the ransom of the Cross. Jesus came to die to us. I know that many will react to this message, but it is the truth.

And with all my heart, I want to leave you with the Truth. God says, I love you, I love you. With an everlasting love. He loves you! Willing to forgive you of all your sins.



The Cross is offensive because it confronts people. Even so, it's a confrontation that all of us must face. I look out across at an audience when I stand there to preach. And I think of all the people with their different backgrounds.

And their various needs. And I know that they are objects of God's mighty love to the point that He gave His son, his only son, to die upon a Cross. And that Cross was the most terrible

form of execution by the Romans for criminals. And Jesus endured all of that in our place. Because of our sins, we deserve the Cross. We deserve Hell. We deserve judgement and all that, that means.

I know that there are many people that dispute that. People don't want to hear that they're sinners. To many people it's an offense. The Cross is an offense, but it directly confronts the evils which dominate so much of this world.

The Bible teaches us that all of us are wrong. We've all gone astray. We've everyone turned to his own way. And when we turn to our own way, we go astray from God's way. And that includes the whole human race. And that's why the world is in such terrible danger right now. It's not dangerous so much, because we have atomic bombs. It's dangerous because of human hearts back of the [atomic] bombs. Filled with envy and hate and strife and greed and lust and all the other things that could pull the trigger.

One reason that the Cross is an offense to people because it demands- it doesn't suggest- it demands a new lifestyle in all of us.

Sin is a disease in the human heart. It affects the mind and will and the emotions. Every part of our being is affected by this disease. How can we break this bondage? How can we be set free? God helps us break those chains. The Bible says "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things pass away, everything becomes new." He can make you a totally new person.



On that Cross, God was laying on Jesus our sins. They not only put nails in his hands but before that they scourged him. A Roman scourge was a terrible thing. They took whips and pellets on those whips and beat a person almost to death. Then they took that Cross and made him carry the Cross, which was in his weakened condition. Was almost impossible.

forsaken me?"

But he carried that Cross to a place outside of Jerusalem. And then they put nails in his hands but that was not the real suffering. The real suffering was when he said, "My God, My God, why hast thou

In that terrible moment, he and God the Father were separated. He shed his blood. And the shedding of that blood carries with it, God's very life. The blood is the meeting place between God and man. And the Bible says, 'without the shedding of blood, there's no forgiveness.' And that is what Christ was doing on the Cross. He was making atonement for our sins. And he was shedding his blood!

Now when you take the blood out, that means you are giving your life. And that is what it means. It means the life of Christ. The Cross and the Resurrection of Christ offers forgiveness of sins, offers a whole new life, and offers you eternal life! If you come to the Cross by repentance and faith.



There is no other way of salvation except through the Cross of Christ. Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man come to the Father but by me." The only way to the Father, Father God is through his son Jesus Christ.

Now why Jesus? He's the only one that was born into this world without sin. But more than that, he was the righteous one. And when you come to him, your clothed in his righteousness. God no longer sees your sin. He no longer sees your own heart. He sees Jesus.

Jesus Christ from the Cross, says 'I will save you. I will forgive you. I will change you. I will make you a new person if you come to the Cross by repentance and faith.' Come to Christ!

When you come to Christ, you come by way of repentance. Repent means to change! To change your way of living. And turn from your sins. And turn to Jesus Christ. And say "I am a sinner. I need forgiveness. I know that you're the only one that can change me."

Christ died for our sins. When he died on that Cross, he became guilty of lying. He became guilty of slander. He became guilty of jealousy. He became guilty of the most filthy, dirty sins. Christ took the Hell that you and I deserve. Now God says "Receive him. Believe him. Put your trust in him. And your confidence in him. And I will forgive you your sins! And I will guarantee you, eternity in Heaven. It's all yours and it's free. All you have to do is to receive it."

Today, I am asking you to put your trust in Christ. I'm going to ask you to pray this prayer, sentence by sentence, after me. **"Dear heavenly Father, I know that I'm a sinner. And I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins. I repent of my sins. I invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. In Jesus name, Amen."**

**The International Catholic Family Newsletter
Is Published Monthly**

Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.

<https://www.catholicfamilynewsletter.com>

**I am watching over you. Pray my children,
Pray, Pray, Pray My Rosary For The Salvation of Sinners**

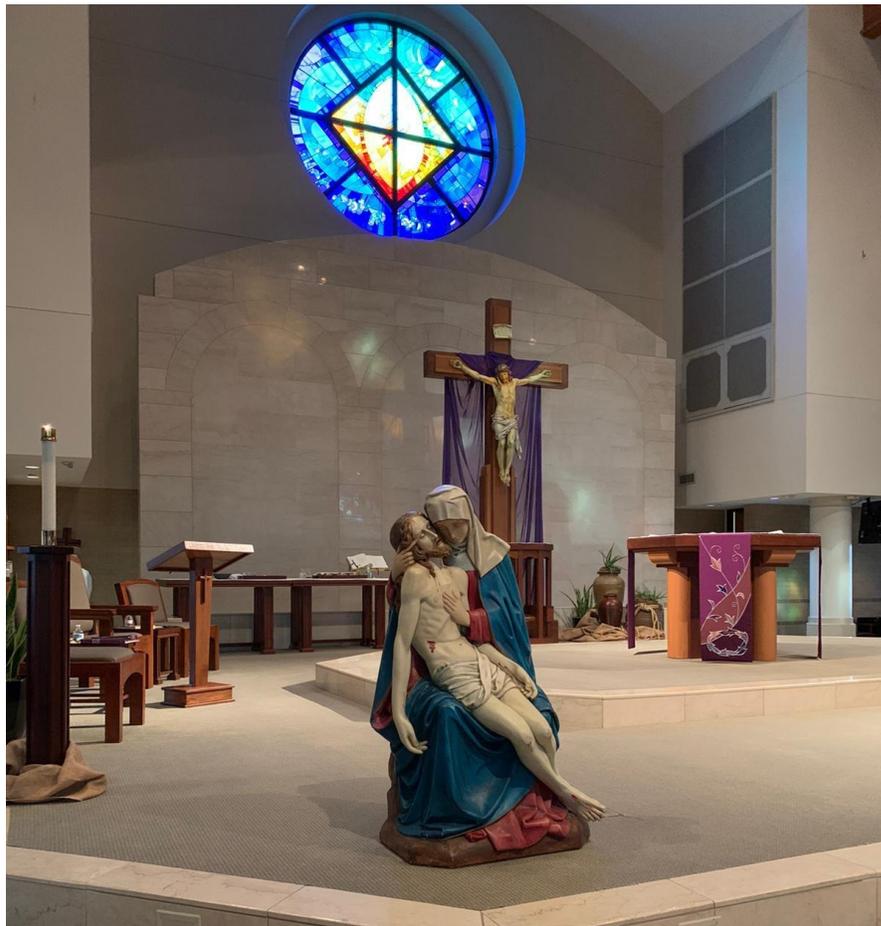


The world would have peace if only men of politics
would follow the Gospels. St Bridgett of Sweden

Jesus took your sins on the Cross.

He died for you. So that you may Live.

Turn away from Evil & Pray the Sinners Pray Below



The Sinners Prayer: "Dear heavenly Father, I know that I'm a sinner. And I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins. I repent of my sins. I invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. In Jesus name, Amen."