

Regarding the Cross



UNDERSTANDING THE CROSS OF CHRIST is the only way we can fathom the person of Jesus Christ. It is vital in comprehending why He visited earth to become our Savior. Jesus is more than a moral teacher. He is the Redeemer. The message of the Cross, therefore, has become the central doctrine of Christians everywhere.

Believers show affection and admiration for the Cross, whereas skeptics usually exhibit contempt for it. Faith sees beauty in this ugly piece of wood, a view that separates Christians from unbelievers. Truly, God has revealed His heart at Calvary's Cross.

The early church chose the Cross as its central symbol even though the Cross was associated with criminal executions and derided by scoffers. Jesus, more than anything, wanted to be remembered by His death. He forewarned His disciples about His imminent death and memorialized it in the upper room. Indeed, the Cross was foremost on His mind. In faithfulness to their Savior, the early Christians endured the scorn of the heathen.

The crosses presented in this work invite the reader to meditate upon the Cross, to survey it, and to see it from many viewpoints. Each cross encourages the viewer to discover and imagine. The pictures are abstract, digital manipulations coupled with annotations that prompt us to explore the great panorama of God's love through the events of the crucifixion.

Pictorial representation, or realism, imposes the artist's point of view, whereas, abstraction removes the tangible and absolute. The crosses presented here give nondirective messages. The crosses show diverse colors, textures, and shapes. Uniquely designed, each cross evokes different thoughts about God's love as revealed in His great redemptive act. Allow the crosses and occasional commentary to be a starting point for personal meditations on the Cross of Christ.

But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God . . . (Romans 3:21–23).

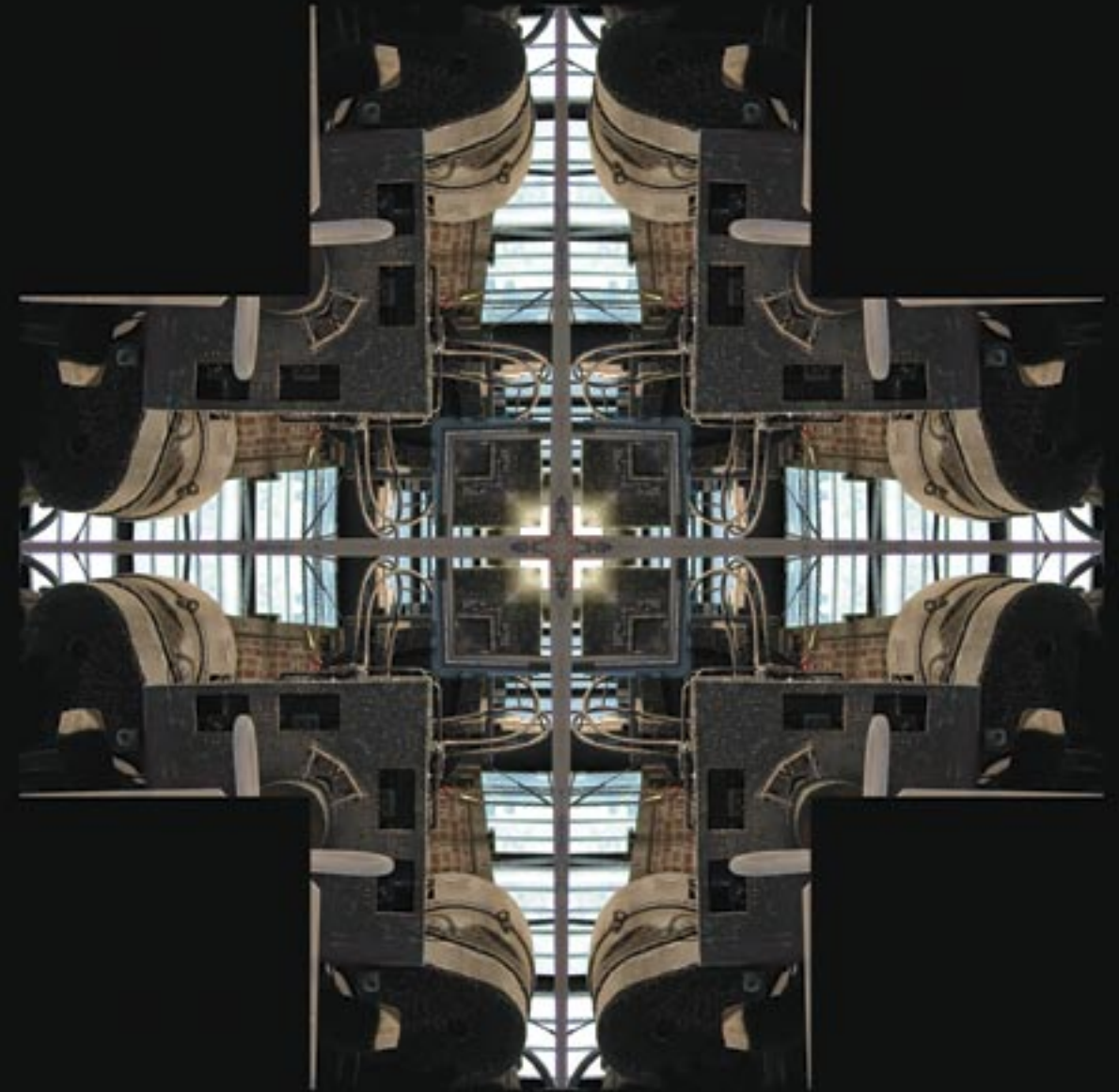
For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18).

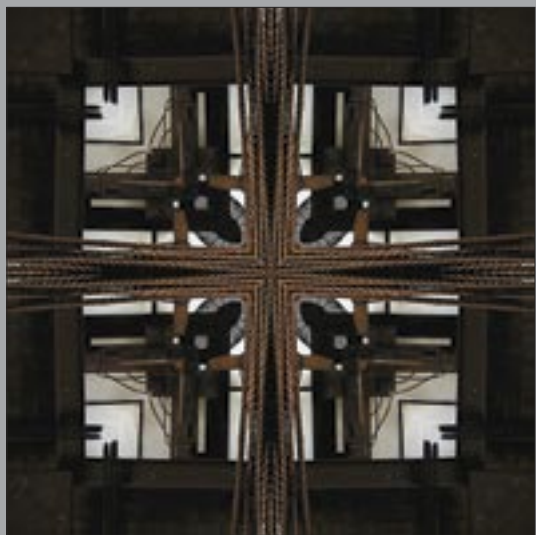
CHERISHED AS A SYMBOL for generations, the Cross is a window through which we survey the panorama of God's immeasurable love:

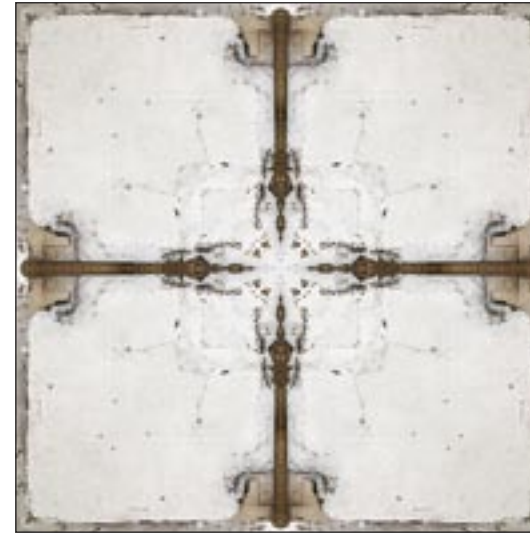
Humankind will never understand the Cross of Christ until they see God at work in it. The meaning of the Cross cannot be perceived by the natural mind until illuminated by the Holy Spirit. When we contemplate the message of the Cross, we embrace it or hate it. Thus, the Cross of Jesus Christ has divided mankind since Calvary.

The good news of the Cross assaults our proud natures. We cannot be justified before God by our own suppositions, works, or excellence. As we stand before the Cross, the commonality of our failure, our sin, is revealed.

Yet, to this preposterous chronicle, Christians cling. It is our glory and exultation.







THROUGH THE USE OF A DIGITAL CAMERA, a computer, and appropriate software, parts of photographs were manipulated, pieced, and rebuilt to construct the crosses in this book. The crosses were not made from photographs of jewels or polished metals. Rather, they were shaped from images of everyday objects with diverse textures, forms, and complexities. The artist's intent is to reflect the glory of the crucifixion with manipulated images of industrial machines, worn surfaces, discarded materials, old jackets, and other familiar, tangible forms.

A listless glance at the Cross does not offer a pretty image. It looks unsightly to the casual eye. However, a closer look at the crucifixion of Jesus displays a glorious revelation – the love and saving power of our God who fulfilled a plan of redeeming the world by sacrificing Himself in our place. We are innocent because He assumed our guilt. This odious Cross has become the celebration of the Christian church.