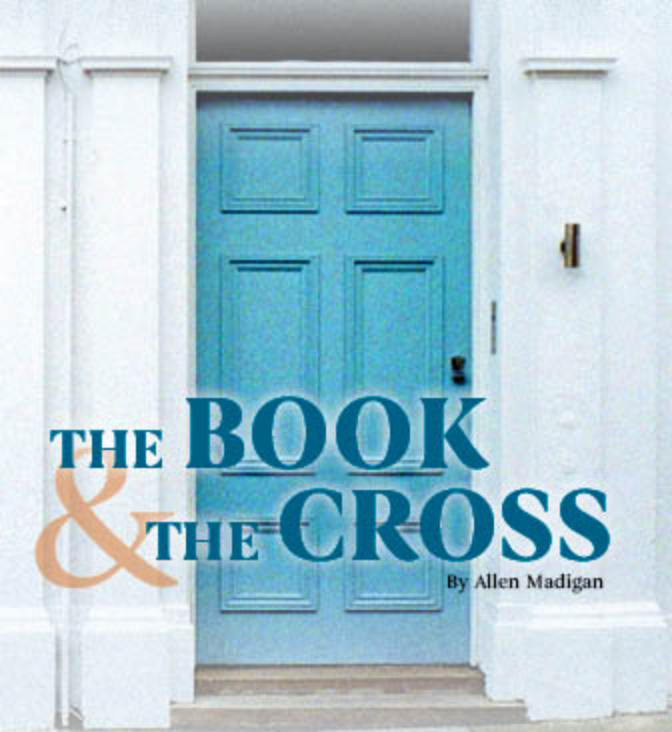


THE BOOK & THE CROSS

By Allen Madigan

THE DOOR *You see them everywhere. I look at them every day in my apartment.* At the present time, they are one of the most popular door designs on the market. They are used extensively in new home construction and in renovations. This design was first used by

tradesmen in the 1800's in Britain and North America. Some say it was used to make the door stronger.

What is the story behind the door called, 'The Book and The Cross'? Mr. Google says that the story about them is a myth.

THE MYTH The so-called myth is that the carpenters intentionally designed the door to represent the cross lying across the open Bible. This was to remind people of the central theme of the Bible, the cross of Christ. The Old Testament points forward to the cross, while the New Testament looks back to the cross.

THE REALITY The New Testament Gospels all give an account of the death of Christ on the cross in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies.

In Psalm 22 we read the words of Christ spoken from the cross, **"My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?"** We also read of the method of crucifixion, **"They pierced My hands and My feet"**, and how the soldiers divided up His clothes and gambled for His

coat. In chapter 53 of the book of Isaiah we read why He went to the cross. Isaiah explains that the Lord Jesus was wounded and beaten for our iniquities (wrong-doings) and the punishment for our peace was laid on Him. With His lashes, we are healed (forgiven).

In the late 1800's, there was a spiritual revival in Britain and the United States. Men such as C.H. Spurgeon and D.L. Moody were reaching thousands of people with the message of the Gospel – how there is forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ, and His death on the cross. People from all walks of life were now seeking to bring family, friends and strangers to these meetings. Hundreds came nightly to hear the message the speakers called the Good News.

The Bible teaches that our sin separates us from God and will keep us out of heaven. The cross of Christ was God's plan to provide a way for us to be forgiven. On the cross, Christ paid the debt for our sin. Forgiveness is offered freely to anyone who will accept Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour.

THREE CHOICES Doors are very important in our daily lives. They keep danger out and keep us safe inside. Doors present three choices. We can go in, go out, or we can pass by.

Jesus said, **"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved"** (JOHN 10:9). You can know your sins forgiven and enjoy peace with God by entering that door, by trusting the Lord Jesus as your Saviour.

WHAT WILL YOU DO? The Lord Jesus invites all to come to Him for forgiveness. In Matthew 11:28, He said, **"Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."** The door of salvation (forgiveness) is open to you now. In Luke 13, the Lord spoke of a time when the door will be shut - there will be those that want to enter in, but will not be able. Why not enter the door today and be saved?

Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE HOUSE PUBLISHING SOCIETY
WWW.IBHGOSPEL.COM