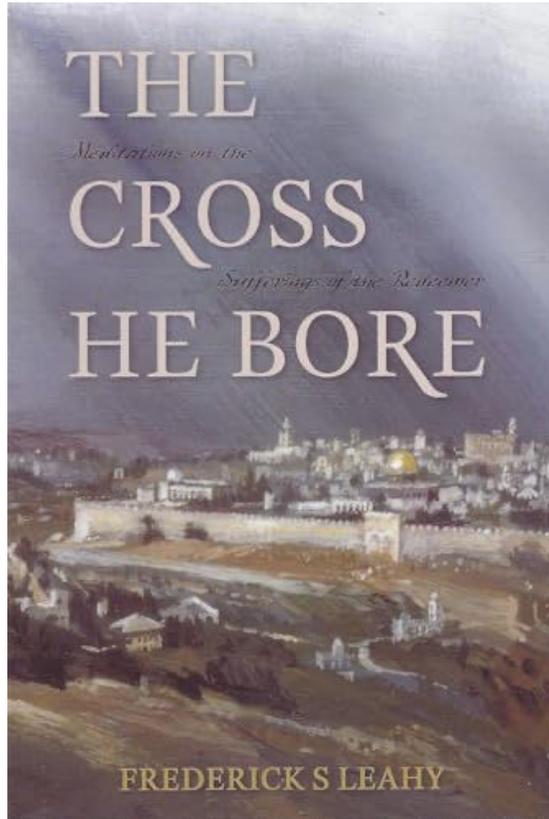


book of the month | April 2024

The Cross He Bore – Frederick Leahy

The month of March climaxed this year with Easter, which means that hopefully you have entered April thinking much on Jesus' death and resurrection. I promise you that you cannot overdo it on meditating on the cross.

Toward that end I would like to commend every member—every attender—of Grace Bible Church read this book. Read it slowly. Read it worshipfully. Read it with your Bible open, full of worshipful, self-abasing prayer. This book is easy to understand and quite short, but—though the words are simple enough for a child or teenager to easily grasp—it is a hard book to read. It is not hard to comprehend, but properly understood, the cross is just a hard scene to consider at length. The Lord whom I love, giving Himself, miserable, suffering, ridiculed, and cursed for me. If you are like me, you will find yourself regularly stopping to pray, to consider, to cry, to worship, to sing...to tremble.



Suggested One-Suggested One-Month Reading Plan

(3 pages per day)

Week 1: Monday, April 1st - Sunday, April 7th

- Forward, 2 pages
- Introduction, 2 pages
- 1. Man Of Sorrows, 5 pages
- 2. Prayerful Submission, 7 pages

Week 2 : Monday, April 8th - Sunday, April 14th

- 3. Strengthened To Suffer, 7 pages
- 4. Satan's Hour, 7 pages
- 5. The Dumb Lamb, 7 pages

Week 3: Monday, April 15th - Sunday, April 21st

- 6. Taking The Oath, 8 pages
- 7. Sentences To Death, 7 pages
- 8. The Butt Of Mockery, 8 pages

Week 4: Monday, April 22nd - Sunday, April 28th

- 9. The Crown Of Thorns, 6 pages
- 10. Outside The Gates, 8 pages
- 11. Satan's Cup Refused, 6 pages

Week 4: Monday, April 29th - Sunday, May 5th

- 12. The King Among Bandits, 7 pages
- 13. Outer Darkness, 8 pages
- Epilogue, 2 pages

Stealing from the preface, **“We are too apt to hurry past the cross, to undervalue...the supreme mystery of the ages by the shallow assumption that we know it all. We don't and never will...We need to *behold*, to *survey*, and to *stand and stare*.”**

When I first picked up this book more than 10 years ago, I was not prepared for what happened in my soul. I fell in love with my Savior all over again. I felt the depth of His love as He submitted to the Father in sorrow, as He suffered for me being mocked and scorned. I worshipped and cried as I saw the thorns pressed into His head, flesh torn from His back, and nails pinning Him to the cross. And then, as the wrath of God was poured out...trembling, repentance, worship, prayer: “As in thought and experience we stand before the cross, we tremble as we consider the wrath of God which flames forth against His Son. We tremble, too, when we think of the sin which incurred such fearful judgment — our sin. Here the awakened soul can only cry out ‘God be merciful to me *the sinner!*’”

Leahy writes in the introduction, **“As the cross is central in God's eternal decrees, and in the actual redemption of His people, so it should be central in the thinking and experience of the individual Christian. It is my conviction, and at times sad experience, that as the cross goes out of focus in the Christian's life, coldness and backsliding set in.”** For this reason, please purchase and read *The Cross He Bore* by Fredrick Leahy as a church this month. Read it alone or read it as a family (I intend to do this in my own). Or perhaps get a small group of friends (or maybe your smallgroup) to read along with you.

Your pastor-elder. *Jacob Hartla*