A Note from the Author

The Bible has only one message ... the cross. Paul said, "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). We love God's Word and quote it, yet we must give greater diligence to studying it and living it. While we wear the cross as jewelry and use it on our signs, it was meant to be worn on the heart.

The cross brought the death of Jesus. It was gory, bloody, and heart-wrenching. While writing is difficult for me, writing about the cross is more difficult. When human hands touch the cross, they defile it. No one can do justice to it by writing a book about it. This study of the cross has grown out of a wrestling match within me. As I wrote it, I knew that I was standing on holy ground and would not be able to express the depth of the biblical teaching. It has been humbling, overwhelming, and yet rewarding. The cross is not superficial—it is the depth of all knowledge! Every human being must come to "know" the Christ and His cross! It is the glory of all who are saved.

We must not try to embellish the cross. It needs no commentary. As you study these lessons, allow the cross to speak for itself. Let the Scriptures lead you to the foot of the cross, where salvation is found.

> "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Galatians 6:14a; KJV).

> > Charles B. Hodge, Jr.