



CROSSWAYS[®] INTERNATIONAL



In This Issue:

Road to Coronation/RCL Notes

FEBRUARY 14TH IS COMING

February 14th is coming!!! Are you ready???

Okay, be honest. What special day came to mind?
Valentine's Day? Of course. And not Ash Wednesday?
Ash what?

Unless you are pretty involved in the life of the church, my bet is that your first thought was that February 14th is Valentine's Day. The reality is that both Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are on the same day this year. Doing whatever it is you do on Valentine's Day for whomever you do it is not the issue of this article. But what you do as a Christian from Ash Wednesday to Easter is.



For you see, that time in the church year is called Lent. Now what comes to mind? Purple vestments? Midweek worship services minus any Hallelujahs? Spring is here? Songs about "Dark Gethsemane" and "The Old Rugged Cross?" A call to repentance? Remorse for Jesus' Passion--for me? Fasting? Giving up something--for Lent? Being properly "prepared" to celebrate Easter?

Through the years, it can be argued, the Church has lost sight of one of the fundamental realities of the Cross. Focusing not on how much Jesus had to suffer for all of us sinners,

Scripture, especially John's Gospel, focuses on the Cross as Jesus' moment of glory--it is His coronation. Mel Gibson's movie was entitled *The Passion of the Christ*. My title would be *The Coronation of the Messiah!*

So take your congregation down a different road this coming Lenten season. Walk and talk them all the way to Easter using CI's [Road to Coronation](#). You will never see the Lenten season and the Cross in the same way again.

Timothy J. Schaefer / Theological Council Chair

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SHARING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY NOTES

"Jesus' message is summed up in Mark 1:15: 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come (the NRSV adds the word near); repent, and believe in the good news.' That word near can be misleading. It gives the impression that the kingdom of God is on its way but has not broken in as yet. No! The kingdom of God has broken in--in the person of Jesus the Messiah, humanity's forgiving Savior and Servant Lord. It has come, and Jesus invites people to 'get on board.'"



Read more in the Rev. Dr. Wendt's [January 2018 Revised Common Lectionary Notes](#).

Check out our [Winter Specials!](#)

JOIN A CLASS OR WEBINAR

Looking for a Crossways International® class near you? Visit our [Class Map](#) for locations and details! Interested in starting your own class? We're happy to help you with planning and promotion. Just call 800-257-7308 or email info@crossways.org.

You can also join us online! Our [webinars](#) provide an interactive way to promote discussion and answer questions. They're the perfect resource for leaders preparing to teach a class within their own congregation, and a great opportunity for learners who prefer to study on their own. Click on a webinar below to learn more!

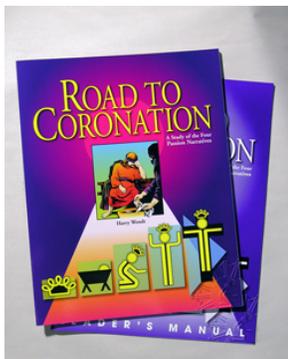
[Road to Coronation](#) Webinar
January 11: 10 a.m.-noon (CST)

[The Parables of Jesus](#) Webinar
February 13: 10 a.m.-noon (CST)

[An Apostles' Creed for the New Millennium](#) Webinar
March 15: 1 p.m.- 3 p.m. (CST)

Follow us on [Twitter](#) to keep up with all of our latest news and events!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Gain insight into Jesus' Passion journey and crucifixion with [Road to Coronation](#).

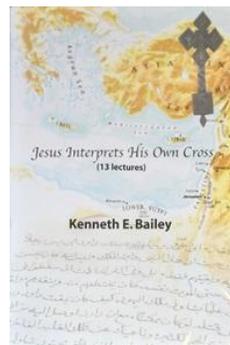
This Bible study, ideal for Lent, retraces Jesus' steps through the Passion narrative in each of the four Gospels and shows how Jesus' crucifixion was in fact His coronation as King of Creation and History.

"We use this study as a supplement to our confirmation program...it provides a good background to the meaning of Jesus' life. I like the clarity with which it interprets and demystifies the biblical story."

Pastor Sherman Bishop, Westlake, Ohio

Increase your understanding of the time surrounding Christ's death by watching [Jesus Interprets His Own Cross](#) DVD.

This set of 13 lectures by the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Bailey starts with the metaphors for the Cross that appear in the New Testament and then reviews the servant songs in Isaiah. Insights on the early Church, Jesus' public ministry, narratives from John's Gospel, and more are also included.



Show your servant heart to others with our [We Do Feet T-Shirts](#)--great for service events and mission trips.

The [Servant-King Lapel Pin](#) is perfect for a class graduation gift, or a witnessing tool.



Sponsor a [CI Workshop](#) in your community.

YEAR-END GIVING

There's still time to give! For 2017 tax deductions (as allowed by law), please have your donations postmarked no later than Sunday, December 31, 2017. Items postmarked after this date will be given credit in 2018. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the ministry of Crossways International!

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A PRAYER TO SHARE

Gracious King, we rejoice that You came among us as that humble One born in "David's royal city." Open our eyes to see the implications of Your life, death, and resurrection. Empower us to embrace the eternal wisdom that You continue to share with fallen humanity, and make it known to people around Planet Earth. And graciously preserve within us saving faith in your free forgiveness. In Your precious, gracious, and forgiving name we pray. Amen. (From [Road to Coronation](#) Leader's Manual)

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