

PBC Growing in Christ

Minister Patrick and Stephanie Burrage

October 4, 2020

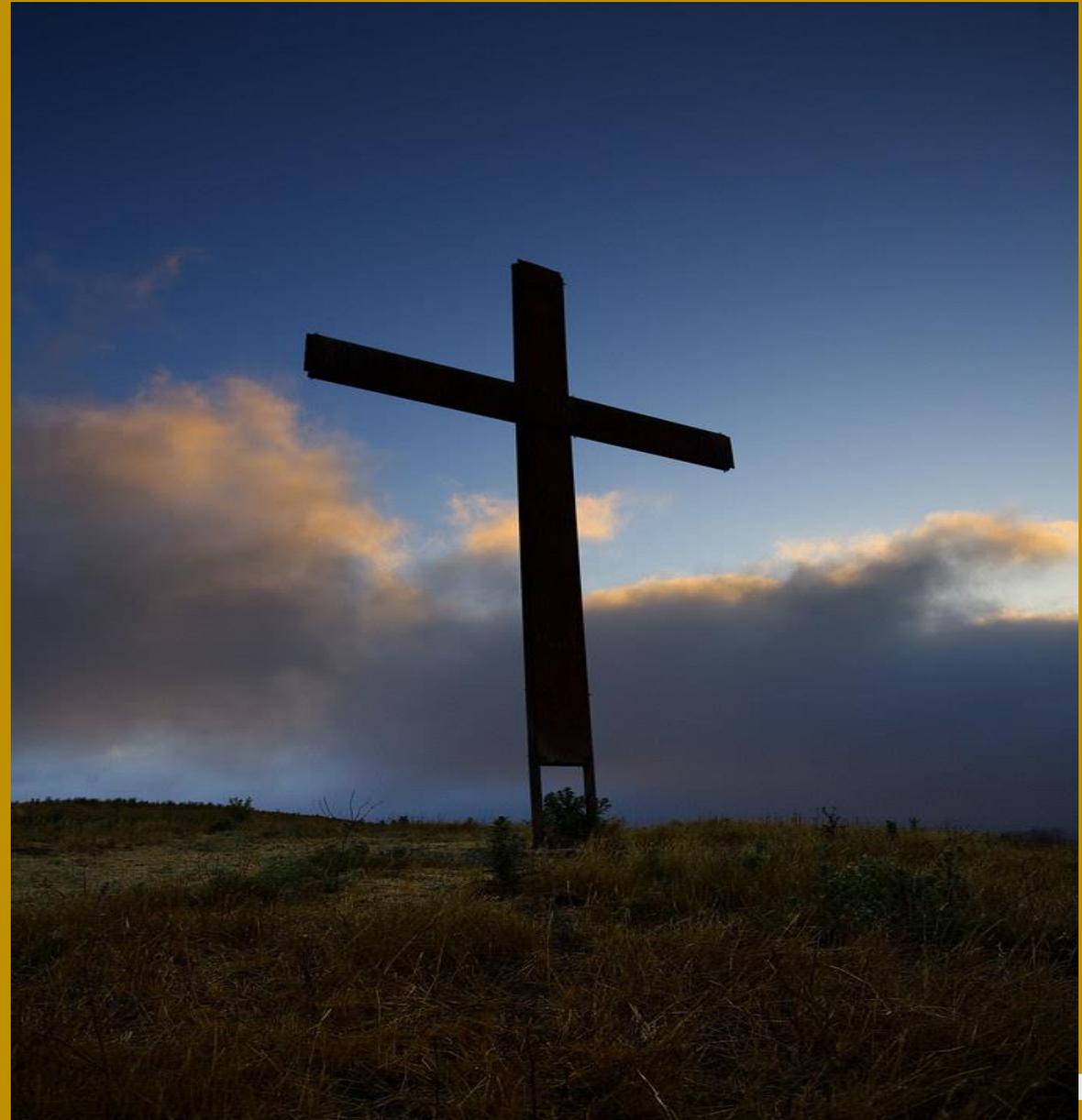
Class Norms

A large, dark wooden cross stands in a field of tall grass. The background is a sunset sky with soft, golden light breaking through the clouds. The cross is the central focus of the image, symbolizing faith and community.

- Place your microphone on mute.
- Use the chat room. Located in the upper right of the screen.
- Interact in the class just raise your hand. The instructor will take you off mute.
- Technology may not always work....please be patient.
- God is always in the midst
- Enjoy the class.

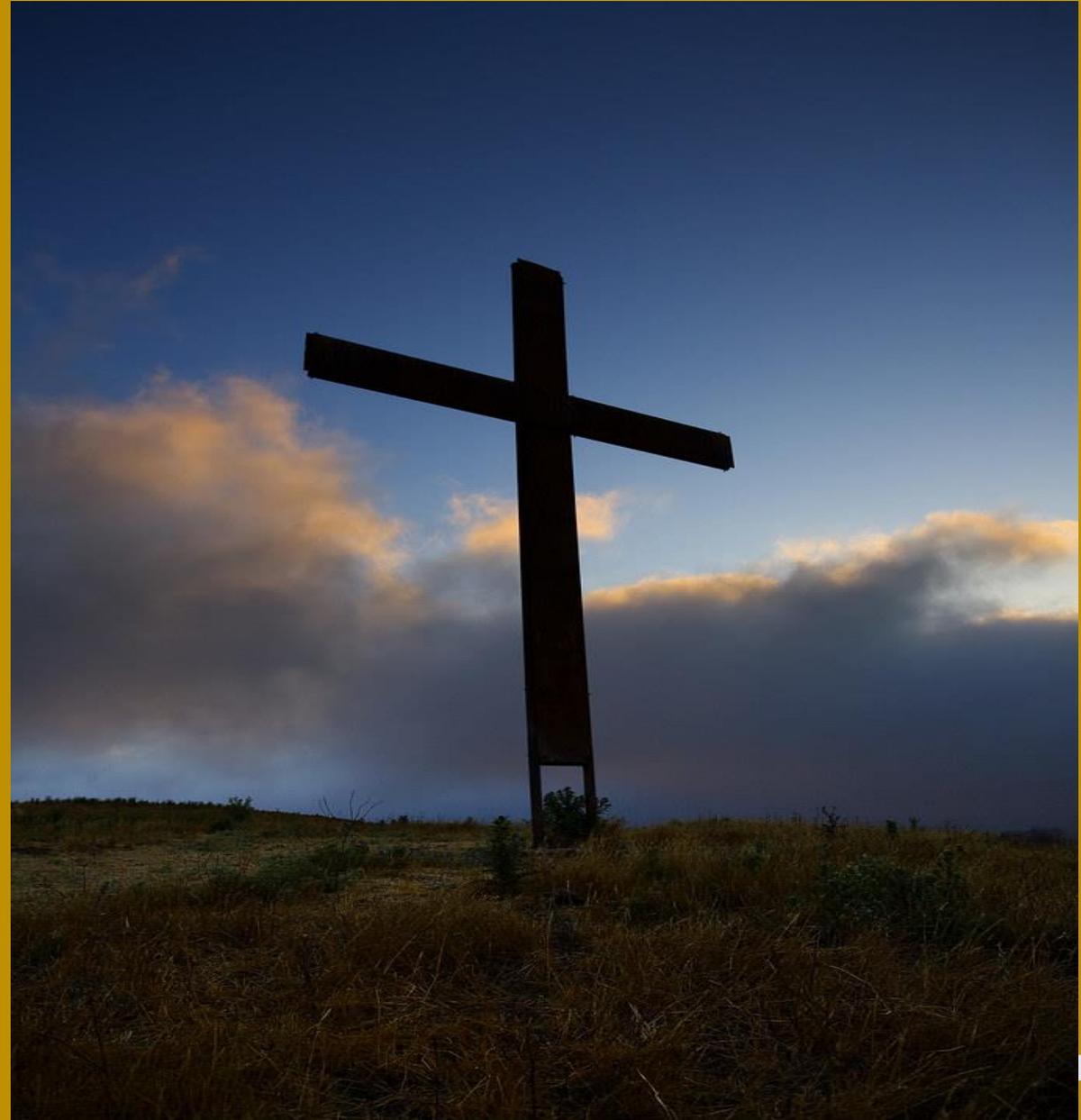
Growing in Christ

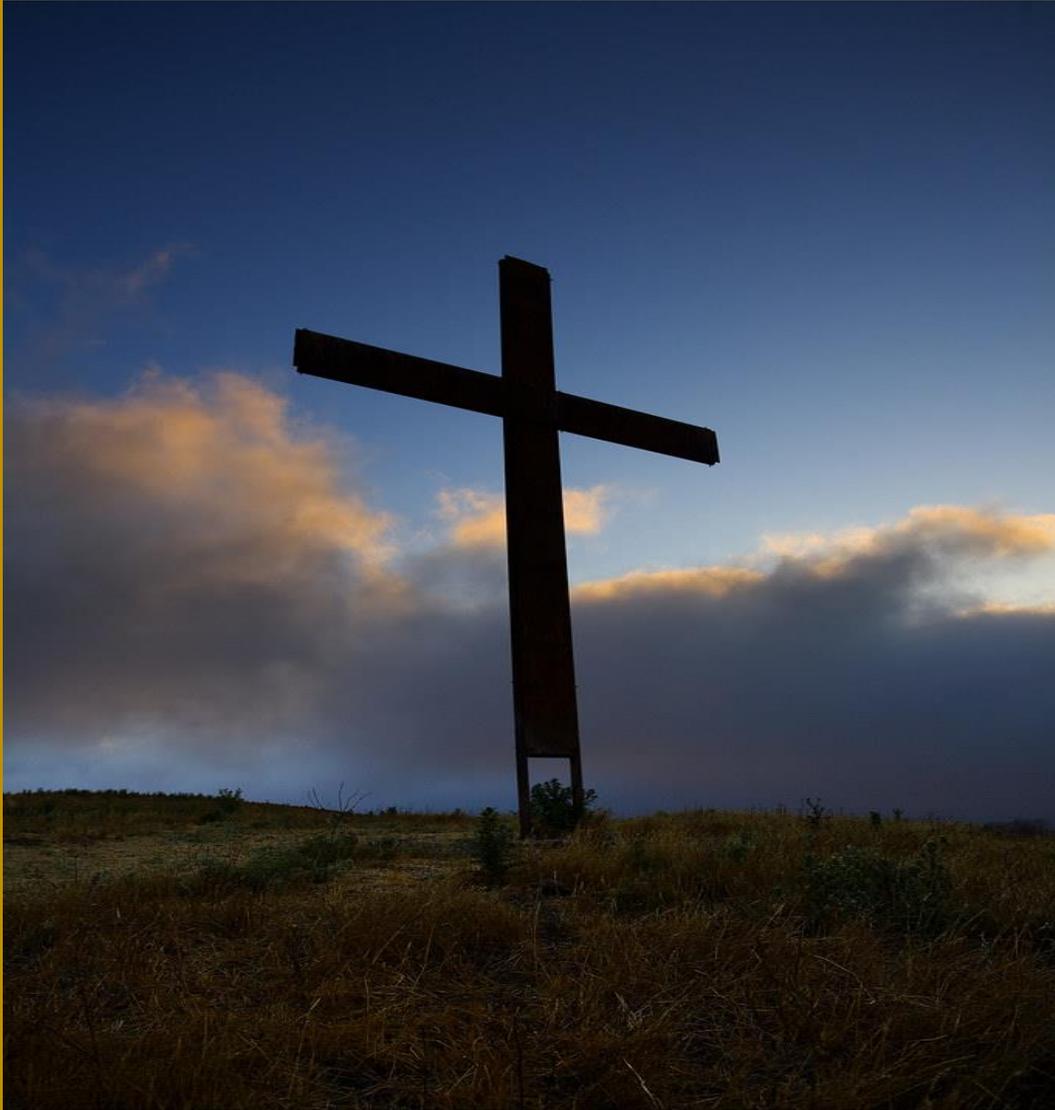
- Every day is an opportunity to grow in the word.
- Growing in Christ will tackle real life issues, while studying the bible for its answers.
- Examine challenges believers and non-believers face every day.
- Growing in Christ bible study will focus on how Christians face challenges and how the bible addresses these issues.



Growing in Christ

To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)





Place God First

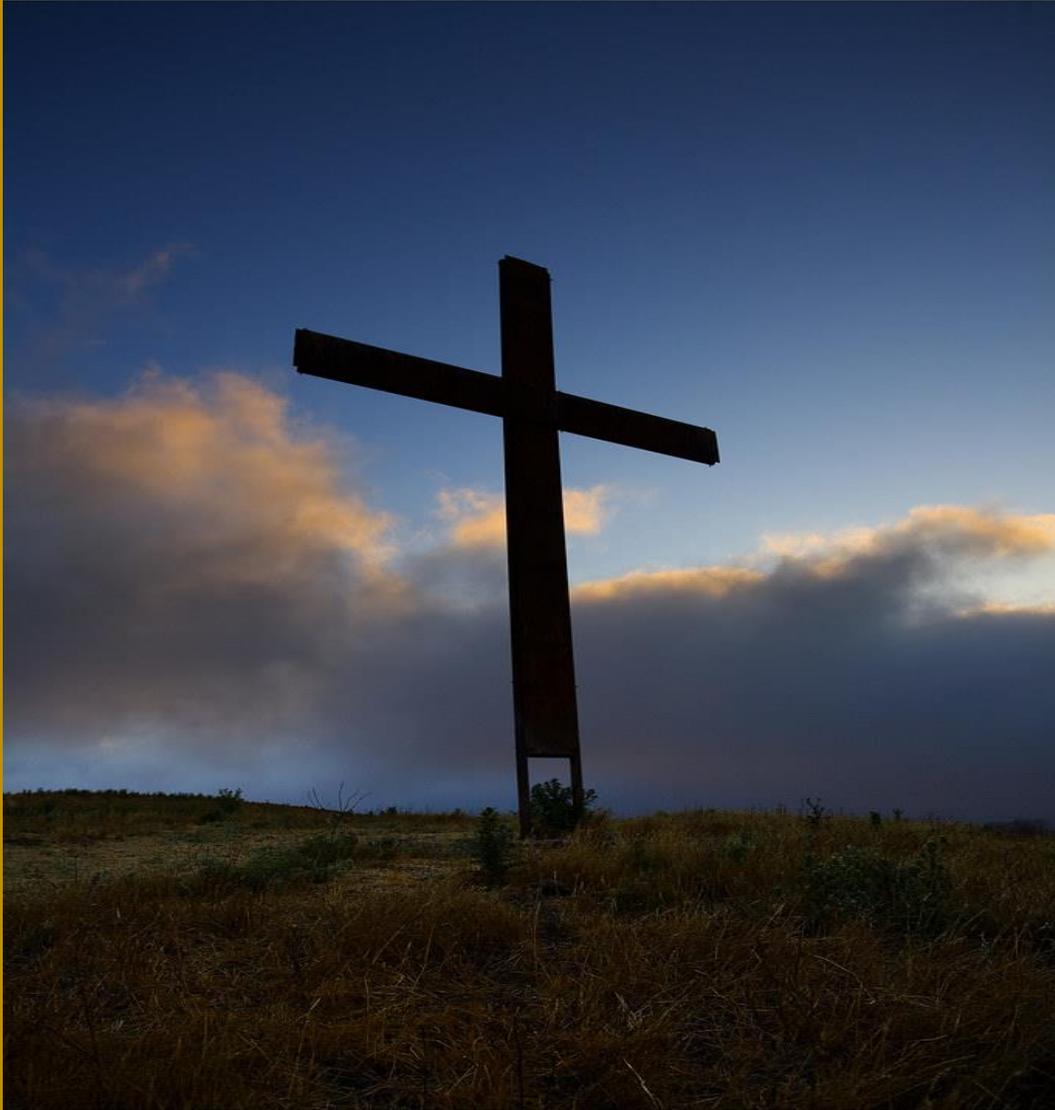
Exodus 20:1-6; Psalm 16:1-4a,9-11

When has a simple solution taken you by surprise?

Scripture

Exodus 20:1-6

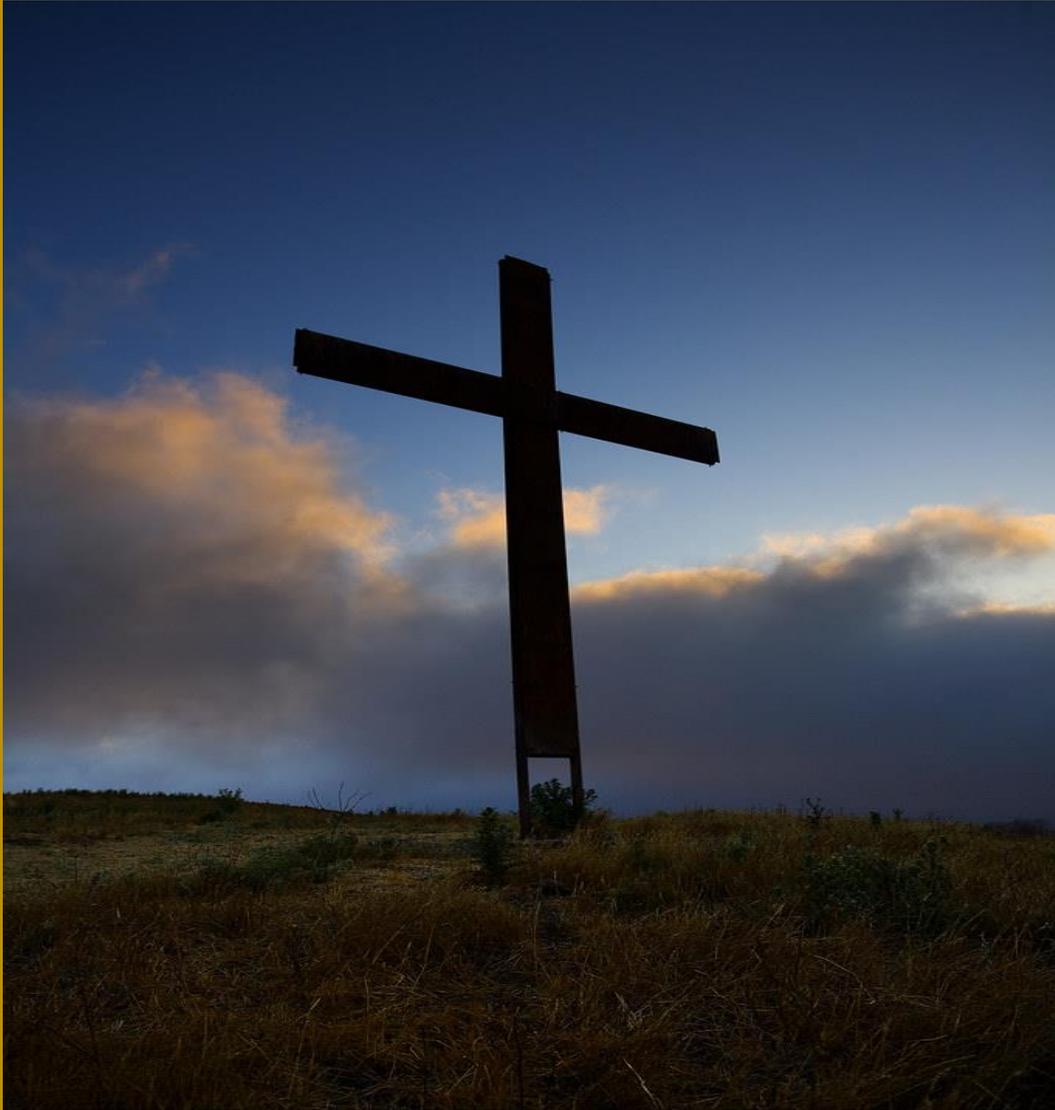
1And God spoke all these words: 2“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3“You shall have no other gods before 20:3 Or besides me. 4“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.



Place God First Exodus 20:1-6

What does it look like to place God
'first' in today's culture?

What are the consequences of
putting other things before God?



Place God First

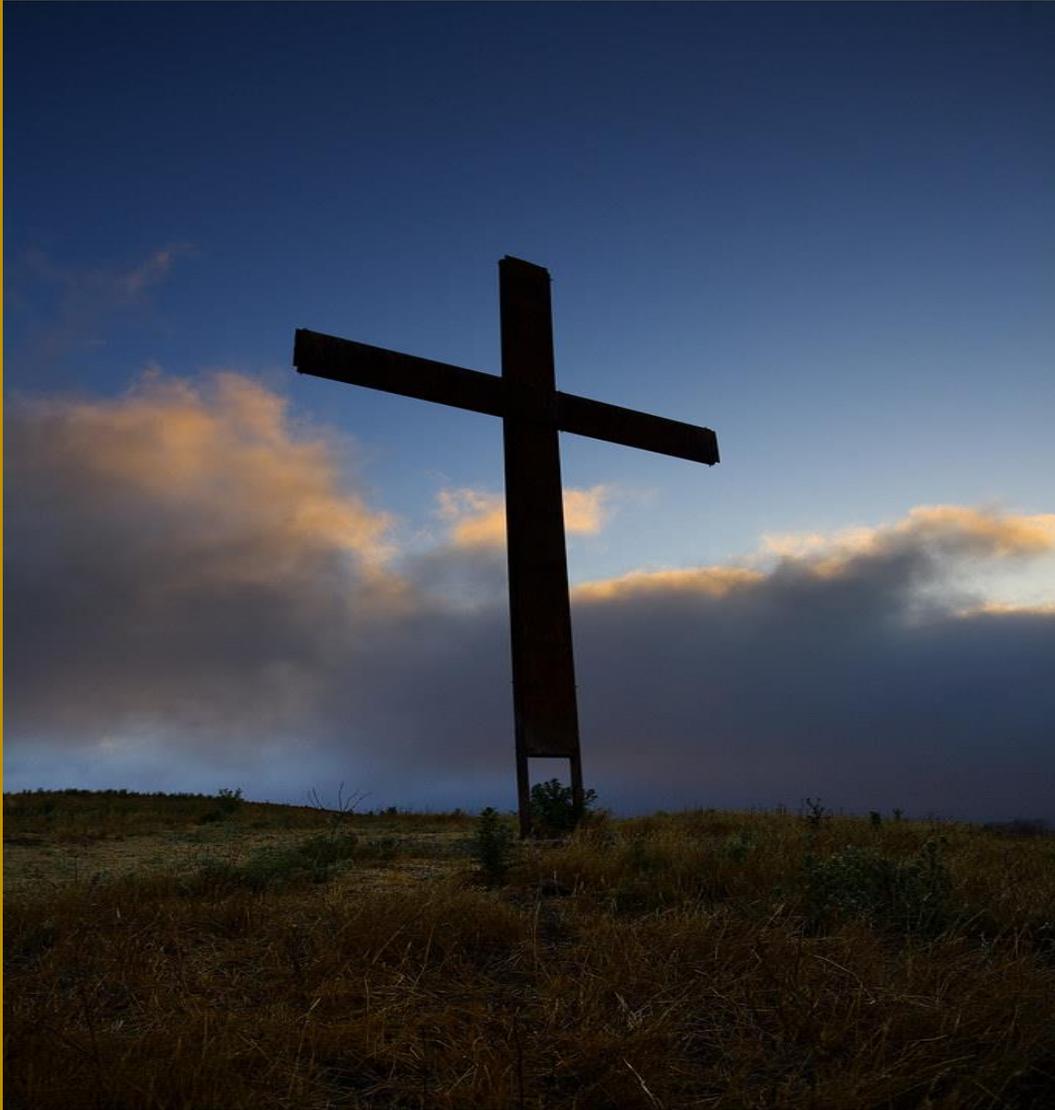
Exodus 20:1-6

- God alone is holy.
- To put God first means to live a life punctuated by a love, which stems from a spirit of gratitude.
- Before God gave the Ten Commandments, He first reminded the Israelites what He had done for them.

Scripture

Psalm 16:1-4

1Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. 2I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.” 3I say of the holy people who are in the land, “They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.” 4Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips.



Place God First Psalm 16:1-4

What experiences from your life reflect the truth that God is good?"

When are you most tempted to put your trust in something besides the Lord?



Place God First

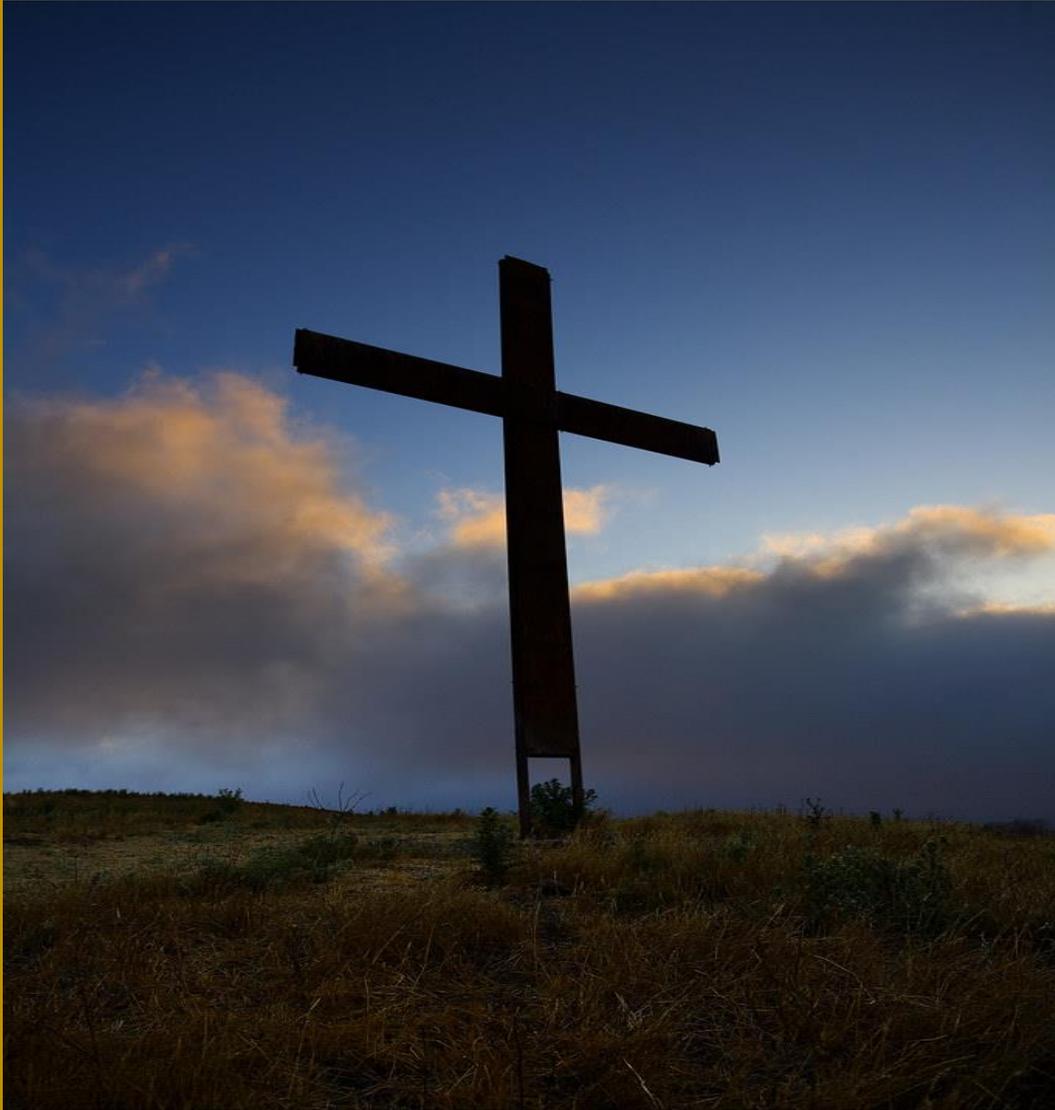
Psalm 16:1-4

- Satan attempts to plant seeds of doubt in our hearts.
 - Satan wants us to focus on the pain rather than the purpose.
 - Satan seeks to plant doubts about the goodness of God by tempting us to develop a “victim mentality.”
- Scripture assures us that all things will be used for good when we love God and put Him first. Whether it’s the oxygen we breathe, the food we eat, the ability of our bodies to function, or the rain that nourishes the earth, God never pauses from giving good things to us.

Scripture

Psalm 16: 9-11

9Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, 10because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. 11You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

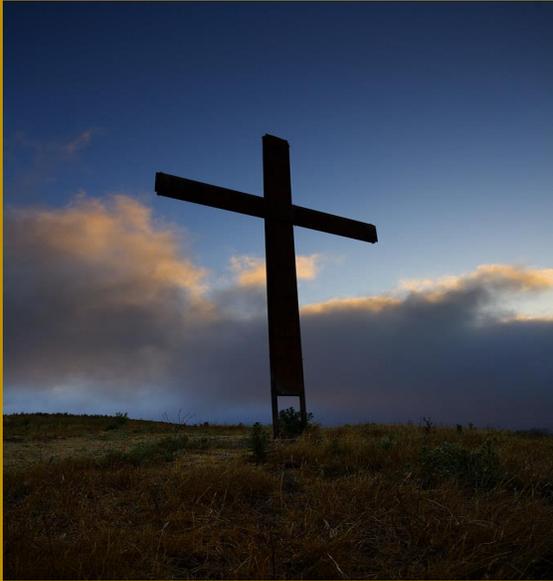


Place God First

Psalm 16: 9-11

What has God done recently that has made you glad and led you to rejoice?

How did you reach the conclusion that Jesus is the only means of salvation?



Place God First

Psalm 16: 9-11

God's "way" isn't merely one of the ways. God's way is the only way that leads to both "abundant joy" in the present and "eternal pleasures" beyond time.

- When we remain in Jesus and align ourselves under Him, He opens doors we didn't even have the ability to knock on previously. He overcomes the obstacles our emotions dug up. And He calms the seas that looked too difficult to face.
- Eternal life is a gift we receive by placing faith alone in Christ alone for the payment of our sins. The good news of the gospel is that we don't have to pay for any of it. Jesus is the way. He is the gift.



GROWING IN CHRIST IN ACTION

OCTOBER 4, 2020

- **Recognize your idols.** The starting point for any personal change begins with honestly acknowledging what needs to change. Does the way you use your time indicate your attention is going to someone or something other than God? Confess this to Him and ask His guidance in turning away from idols and toward Him instead.
- **Run from distractions.** Make a decision to “fast” for three days, laying aside something that has taken the place of God in your life. Over the next three days, whenever the thing from which you fast starts vying for your attention, pray to God and spend that time with Him.
- **Begin each day with God.** Make a commitment to begin each day by putting God first. Read your Bible before you do anything else, or quoting a Scripture from memory before you pick up your phone in the morning.

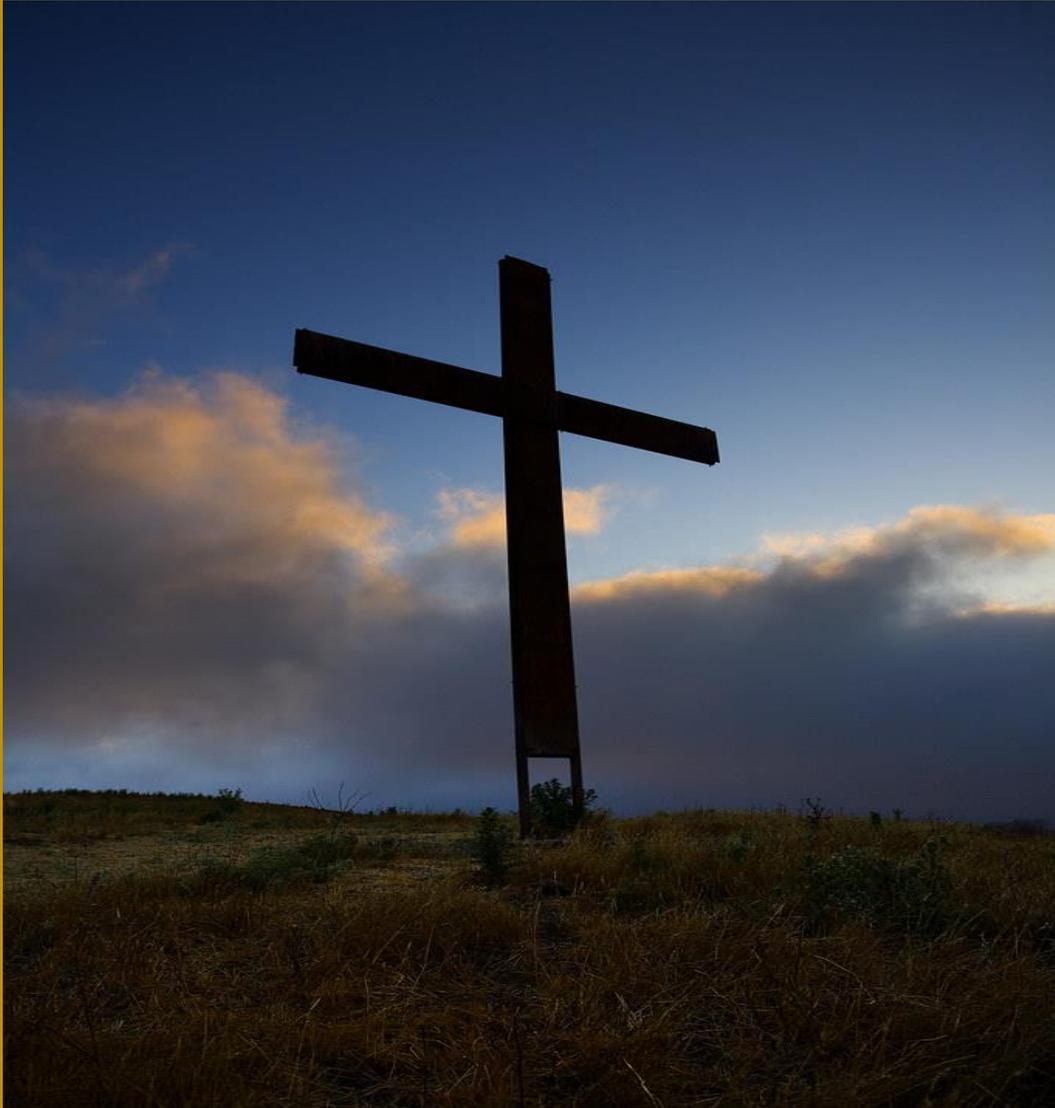


Final thoughts about Commitment to Prayer

- In our culture we don't bow down to wooden idols or statues. We don't declare our allegiance through rituals or sacrifice. While the absence of those outward things is good, it can also be misleading.
- Because we don't physically and tangibly bow to a person or possession, we can naively think they aren't idols. We still mistakenly believe that God is first in our lives.

Final thoughts about Commitment to Worship

We are going to love the hell out
you!

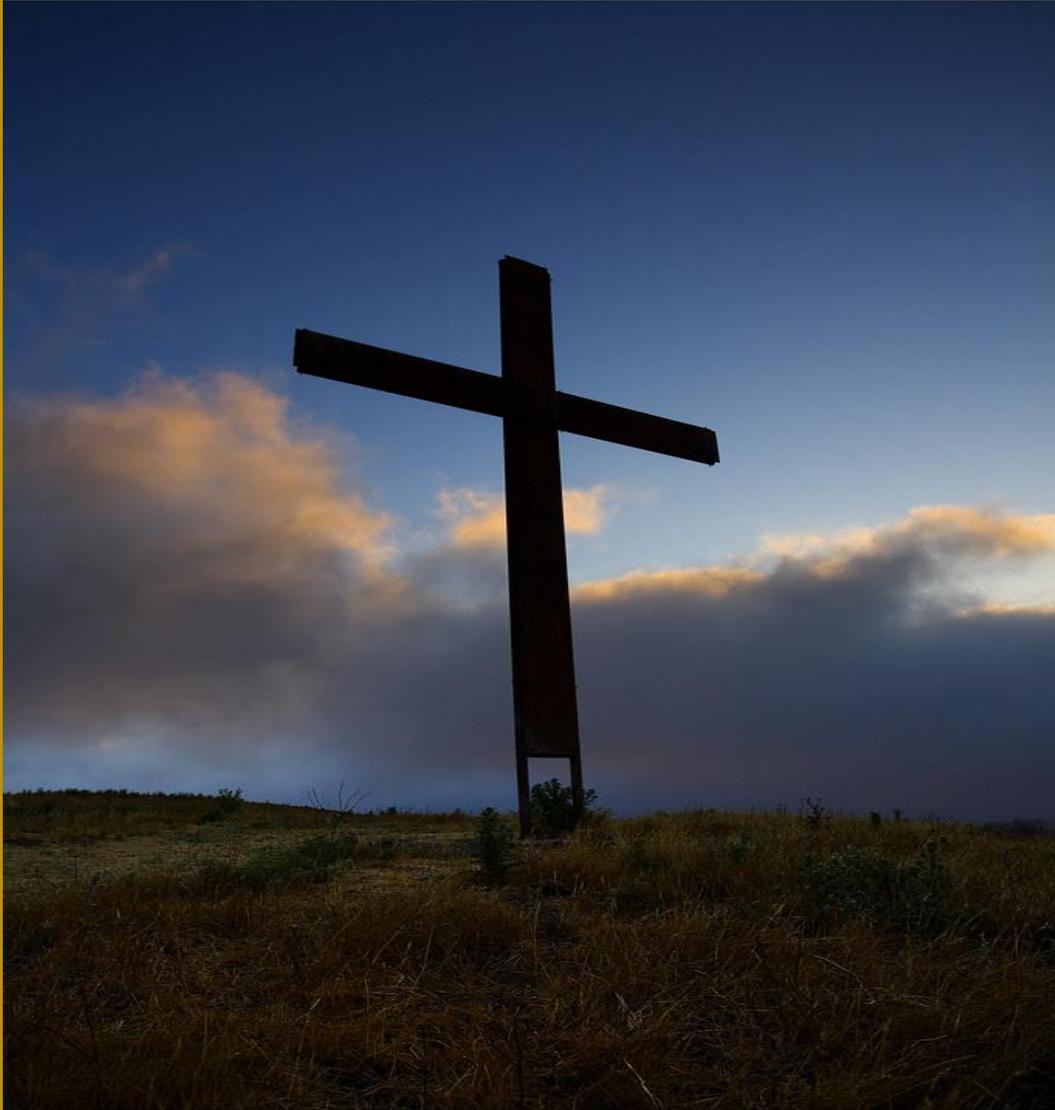


Resources

BIBLE-Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth

[Bible.com](https://www.bible.com)





Next Week: October 11, 2020
Honor God

Exodus 20:7-11; Psalm
145:1-7

How can you recognize a
genuine fan?



God Bless You!

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