



*Colin Saxton*

Much of my work these days is spent traveling around the globe trying to support and encourage the work and witness of Friends. I am more and more mindful of how much we need to rely on the power of the resurrected Christ in order to overcome the suffering, tragedy, and hopelessness that mark much of our world. We have a great gift to share with others—but our lives need to be animated by God's Spirit if our compassion and good news are going to be truly transformational.

My sweet wife, Janine, and I make our home these days in Richmond, Indiana. When we are there we like to garden, raise our chickens, host guests, and enjoy the outdoors, including exploring some beautiful lakes with our kayaks. Our four children are scattered in different places, each making their good mark on the world. We are so grateful for each of them and miss the days when we were all under one roof.

*BIBLE READING: John 13:31-35*

When I came to faith, I had many questions about Christianity. I'm sure all my "what" and "why" queries stretched my pastor's patience. Maybe to buy himself a reprieve from my constant questioning, he purchased me a thick book on apologetics—a reasoned defense or argument for faith. Slowly, I wound my way through the historical, scientific, philosophical, and textual evidence surrounding Jesus' life and death and plausibility of his resurrection. I took voluminous notes and wrestled with the text. Though nowhere near all of my questions were answered, I was helped by the range of ideas.

As the first Easter approaches, a stark reality confronts the disciples. Jesus will go to Jerusalem. He will be killed. It will be up to them to continue his mission and share his message after he is gone. Without Jesus there in the flesh, will others be convinced his story is true? Without his miracle-working power on daily display, are others likely to become part of his new movement?

Love—as shared among the followers of Jesus—may not be the only apology for Christianity, but it is the premier one. "By this the world will know," Jesus said. Through love—vibrant, persevering, sacrificial, divinely-empowered love—others will continue to see and experience the reality of Christ.

Had the love of Jesus not been fleshed out in the lives of a few caring people in advance, that apologetic text would have meant little to me. I had to see, feel, and hear it to believe and embrace it. Love was the argument I could not deny, rendering me defenseless to the truth of Christ.

*SONG: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

*PRAYER SUGGESTION: Lord, let your love flow through us and enable others to see you!*

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