

FOR THE JOY

By Paralee Eadie

Held up to public ridicule,
He was spit upon, mocked, and scorned,
Beaten with forty lashes,
Then with a thorny crown adorned.

He was forced to drag the cross
Up Golgatha's stony hill,
So weak, they made another help
As He carried out God's will.

He heard the metal resonance
And felt the awful pain
As the hammer slammed the nails in
While mockers made their pleasure plain.

He cried, "Father, forgive them
For they know not what they do."
As on the cross He paid the price
For the sins of me and you.

He was God! He had all power!
How could He bear such agony?
For the joy that was set before Him,
He bore it for you and me.

Did you know *you* were that joy,
The joy set before Him that day,
As He bore the cost of our sin?
A price we could never pay.

But with that love and sacrifice
Comes a choice that's ours alone.
Accept His sacrifice and love
Or turn your heart to stone?

Do you realize how precious you are to God? How much He loves you? Thinking of you being able to spend eternity with Him was the joy that made the cross bearable. Amazing! What amazes me even more was that He even bore the sins of those who would reject Him and what He did for them. How can anyone reject such love, such sacrifice? How could anyone choose an eternity without God? Yet Jesus will love and reach out to each one of us, even those who reject Him as Saviour and Lord, until we take our final breath. Then our choice will remain. God gave us a free will that we might choose to love Him, for love that is forced is not love at all. So today will you choose Jesus as your Saviour and Lord? Choose to spend eternity with Him? If you will, simply tell Him, "Jesus, be my Saviour and my Lord. Forgive my sins, Lord. Thank You for loving me and paying the price for my sins so I can spend eternity with You. Help me to walk with You all the days of my life. Amen."

II Corinthians 5:21 New International Version "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Hebrews 12:2 NIV "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down on the right hand of the throne of God."

Luke 15:7 NIV "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

Jude 24-25 NIV "To him who is able to keep you from falling and present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy - to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."

PRAISE GOD FOR THE CROSS AND THE RESURRECTION!

HAPPY EASTER!