

The Old Rugged Cross

George Bennard · 1913 · Tune: Old Rugged Cross (George Bennard)

Meter: Irregular with refrain

Verse 1

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Verse 2

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

Verse 3

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.

Verse 4

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.

Verse 5

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

History

Methodist evangelist George Bennard wrote both the words and music in 1912-1913 in Pokagon, Michigan, while reflecting on the meaning of the cross during a difficult ministry season. It quickly became one of the most popular gospel hymns of the 20th century.

Scripture References (KJV)

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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