



# CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

*Christ came to bring new life.*

by BOB HOSTETLER

PEOPLE WHO STARTED their life’s journey in the middle years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century grew up knowing there were some things they could count on. Coca-Cola® was always 5 cents a bottle. *Gunsmoke* was on TV every Saturday (later, on Monday) evening. And at midnight every New Year’s Eve, radios and TVs across the nation featured Guy Lombardo leading his band, the Royal Canadians, in “Auld Lang Syne” from the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria® New York hotel.

For 48 years (1928-1976), Lombardo was “Mr. New Year’s Eve,” and his band’s rendition of the Scottish folk song represented a turning of the calendar to another year. The evocative song formed a fitting farewell to the old year (“Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?”) and a hopeful anticipation of the new (“And there’s a hand my trusty friend! And give me a hand o’ thine!”). For a whole generation, Lombardo’s “Auld Lang Syne” meant crossing the threshold from old to new.

A different exchange from old to new touches all of time for all of eternity. Two thousand years ago, rough hands lifted Jesus up on a cross, where He suffered and died for love — love for you and for all

humanity. That cross drew a line in the sky, marking a fitting farewell to the old and the hopeful anticipation of the new: “Once you were far away from God but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ” (Eph. 2:13, NLT).

Through Jesus’ death on the cross — and your surrender, by His grace — you can start a brand new life if you cross the threshold in your heart and accept His free and gracious offer of forgiveness, cleansing, and deliverance from sin, guilt, and death: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has

passed away, and see, the new has come!” (2 Cor. 5:17).

Your new life can begin with a sincere prayer, such as, “Jesus, I come to You humbly and thank You for paying the price of my sin when You died on the cross. I ask Your forgiveness and accept Your sacrifice in exchange for all

the sinful things I’ve done. I turn my life over to Your control and ask You to take charge from now on. Amen.”

If you prayed that prayer, tell a pastor or Christian friend. Or call 888-537-8720.

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