

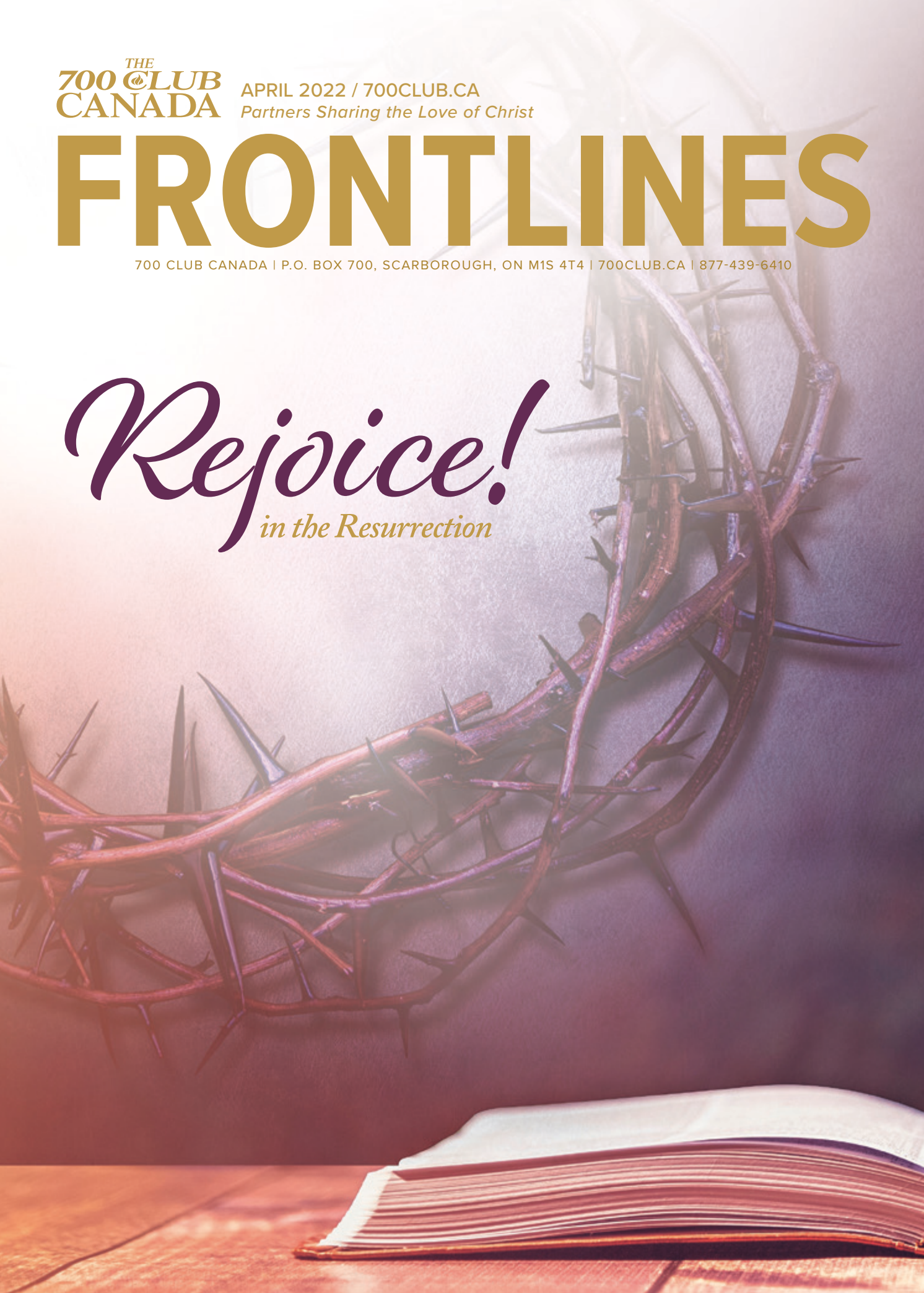
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Rejoice!
in the Resurrection



The Inclusive Gospel

by BILL MARKHAM

Co-Host, *The 700 Club Canada*



In a culture that is becoming increasingly hostile to absolute truth, the message of the Bible is being confronted as

being exclusive and even offensive. Is that a fair assessment?

To the melting pot of political, philosophical and religious ideologies of the Roman Empire Jesus said, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*” (John 14:6 NKJV). And in our modern culture of “isms” (liberalism, materialism, postmodernism, etc.) the Bible states that *salvation is found in no one else* [speaking of Jesus] (Acts 4:12 NIV). These statements are a response to the question of whether our beliefs really matter. Our beliefs—and our worldview—impact our actions, and those actions carry consequences. What we choose to believe shapes who we become, and in many ways, what becomes of us.

If you were trapped in a burning building, and a fireman told you, “Follow me... there is only one way out,” would you dismiss this as exclusive and offensive? Not at all. You would simply have to make the decision whether to trust him. In the same way, the words of the Bible are designed to be directive, liberating and empowering. The irony is that they are *incredibly* inclusive, because the offer of salvation is given to everyone—no matter what their background or story. The Bible reveals a truth that must be heard: *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord* (Romans 6:23 NIV). The only choice remaining is, how will you respond?

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BREAKING UP WITH SUGAR

Author shares healthy weight-dropping journey



Is it time for you to break up with sugar?

It's hard to imagine that *Breaking Up with Sugar* author Molly Carmel, thin and energetic, once struggled with obesity—weighing more than 300 pounds. It's a problem she found a solution to while at a support group for overeaters. “I met a friend there, and she didn't eat sugar and flour,” says Molly. At first that seemed like an impossible life change. Then her brother stopped eating sugar for a cleanse. After some research Molly gave it a try.

It wasn't long before Molly experienced withdrawal symptoms. An addictions therapist by trade, Molly knew that detox meant she was addicted.

Thankfully, the detox symptoms didn't last long. “You're not sitting in withdrawal for the rest of your life. You're sitting in a big, beautiful life for the rest of your life, you know... free from this demon, really.”

Molly gave up sugar and flour that wasn't combined with fiber. She did still eat dairy and fruit, along with whole grains. The weight began dropping off and Molly realized she could keep doing it.

“There's not a minute in my life where I think, ‘Oh, I hate this food.’ I'm always like, ‘Yeah, is it lunch? I'm so excited. I can't wait to have this thing,’” she says.

Molly says it wasn't a perfect journey. She points out that we have a relationship with food and mistakes are a part of any relationship. When mistakes happen, it's important to just get back on track.

For more information, check out Molly's book, *Breaking Up with Sugar*, and be sure to consult your physician before making any dietary changes.

Rejoice!

in the Resurrection

THE POWER OF CHRIST'S
RESURRECTION IN YOUR LIFE

AT EASTER WE CELEBRATE HOW GOD FOREVER PROVED
HIS LOVE BY SENDING HIS SON TO DIE FOR US,
THEN RAISING HIM TO LIFE AGAIN.

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." ~ John 3:16*

Wise or Foolish?

by LORIE HARTSHORN

Co-Host, *The 700 Club Canada*



Have you ever done something really foolish? I mean, you did it without thinking and it ended up causing

pain or, at best, confusion. We've all been there. We are living in a time where it appears that a lot of people are acting foolishly—not thinking about consequences or how their behaviour might affect others. This is not the way we are instructed to live. Paul gives some great advice in Ephesians. He simply says:

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days (Ephesians 5:15-16 NLT).

What does it look like to “be careful how you live”? The King James Version says, *See then that ye walk circumspectly* (v. 15). Have you ever been in a barnyard full of animals? Circumspectly would be one way of describing how you would want to walk. You don't want to step into anything that would leave you with regrets. This is the way we are to live our life. Watch where we step. Watch what conversations we join. Watch how we react to people with different opinions than our own. Watch how our behaviour affects others.

Wisdom invites us to slow down and assess the situation before stepping. Wisdom is putting knowledge into action and making the most of every opportunity to love God and love others. We live in “evil days.” Let's be careful to live like those who are wise.

God loves us infinitely! And He is vitally concerned with every detail of our lives.

If we are in pain, Jesus understands perfectly because He bore our infirmities on the cross. He took every sin and disease and bore them in His body. He took it all.

Centuries before Christ was born, Isaiah prophesied about Him, saying, *His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men* (Isaiah 52:14).

What mutilated Jesus beyond human recognition wasn't what the Roman soldiers did to Him. It wasn't the merciless flogging that He endured, or the crown of thorns thrust down on His head, or the spikes driven into His hands and feet.

Isaiah 53:4 gives the true reason: *Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.*

What marred Jesus beyond recognition was that He carried all of our sin, disease and death so that we would not have to carry it.

Isaiah's prophecy continues: *He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ... For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken* (vv. 5, 8).

It's vital to understand and appreciate all that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross. Yet don't stop there! Fast-forward three days to the Resurrection.

I love to tell people, “You can never be too dead for a resurrection.” It doesn't matter what doctors may say; Psalm 118:17 promises, *I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.*

That verse is in a concluding psalm of the Seder service, the Jewish feast of Passover that commemorates their deliverance from slavery. Jesus told His disciples at the Last Supper, *“I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer”* (Luke 22:15 NRSV).

Matthew 26:26-28 records that during the meal, *Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”*

At the Seder's conclusion, as Jesus was preparing to go to the Garden of Gethsemane—that's when He sang those profound words from Psalm 118: *I shall not die, but live.*

That psalm also announces, *This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it* (v. 24). Many of us have sung a simple praise chorus based on that verse—yet how incredible to think that Jesus sang those words while knowing full well what lay ahead for Him at Golgotha.

Hebrews 12:2 explains why He could do this: *Jesus, the author and*

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

WATCH AND BE AMAZED



SURPRISING CONSEQUENCE OF FORGIVENESS

Cornelia was so used to being abused, that she thought it was impossible to forgive those who had hurt her. But one day, while passing a church, she felt the pull to visit it. It was there that her path to forgiveness began. Watch her beautiful story of redemption.



HEALING A BROKEN MARRIAGE

When Jason accidentally left his phone behind one day, his wife found out about his infidelity. Suddenly their marriage that had seemed so strong was shattered. But God had a plan for them. Watch and see how God healed their relationship.



RESCUED FROM THE BRINK OF INSANITY

A dark past filled with abuse led Paige to something even darker—drugs and a mind filled with other voices. But then God intervened in the most incredible way possible. Don't miss her amazing transformation.



CONFRONTING THE LIE

Rebekah had always believed that she was unlovable—a lie that led her to first gain weight, then eventually to turn to bulimia. You won't want to miss how she fought the lie and discovered God in the process.

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Watch The 700 Club Canada Weekdays:

- VisionTV – Nationwide
10:30 a.m. EDT
- FaithTV – Nationwide
9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. CDT
- JoyTV 10 – Vancouver
1:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. PDT
- The Miracle Channel
9:30 a.m. MDT



Watch The 700 Club With Gordon Robertson Weekdays:

- JoyTV 10 – Vancouver
11:00 a.m. PDT
- CBS KREM – Spokane
9:00 a.m. PDT
- WUTV TV29 – Buffalo
9:00 a.m. EDT
- WNYO TV49 – Buffalo
1:00 p.m. EDT
- WMYD Detroit –
Southwestern
Ontario
9:00 a.m. EDT



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Money and Discipleship

Many people are experiencing financial challenges, such as debt, a frustrating job, or inadequate savings. The Bible has a lot to say about money. Indeed, the Bible is a blueprint for managing your finances. In this webinar hosted by our partners at ADVISORS with Purpose, we will discover the profound impact handling money has on your relationship with God.

Presented by the Rev. Ray Borg April 26 at 7 p.m. Eastern/4 p.m. Pacific

To register, send your name and contact info to
register@advisorswithpurpose.ca

Continued from interior

finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross.

What was this “joy set before Him”? It was us! For our sake Jesus endured the unimaginable so we can participate in His victory over sin and the grave. He bore our infirmities so that by His wounds we are healed.

He carried all of our sins away and separated them from us, as far as the East is from the West. He justified us—meaning it’s just as if we never sinned. Because of this, Hebrews 4:16 proclaims, *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

And on the third day, Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of God. And here’s a fact: that same resurrection power is available to everyone who believes

in Him!

Romans 8:11 assures us, *If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

So let this be the day the Lord has made for you.

If you have sickness or any kind of problem right now, stand firm on the eternal promises of His Word. Believe, rejoice, and be glad in the resurrection that He is bringing to you. God bless you!

Excerpted from The 700 Club. Scripture is quoted from the NKJV except as noted.

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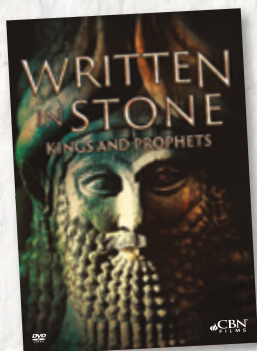
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