

ANCIENT LANDMARKS
Maurice Paine
The By All Means Gospel Trust

Henley Baptist church must rank high among landmarks in the town. While the motorist may miss it driving through, no one can walk the High Street without the pleasure it gives to come across this chapel complete with 19th century spire standing back from the building line and behind the attractive flower garden.

A verse in each of two consecutive chapters in the Book of Proverbs tells us not to move an ancient landmark, or “boundary stone,” as some translations have it. To give the words a modern twist, we might say “Don’t move the goalposts” – quite important, for there is a lot of that going on today! The words “accommodation” or “compromise” describe what some have raised to unacceptable prominence and used as an excuse to remove the old. In your journey through life, you will have passed some notable landmarks. In some cases you may have played a part in making them. Landmarks have an abiding quality all of their own: they say something; they are not to be removed; they can be found all along life’s way; and in many cases they are a help to those who see them.

There’s one landmark that’s never been removed and is not likely to be, either. It’s the cross on which Jesus died. It has an abiding quality all of its own – there’s nothing like it. It cannot be removed though all hell has tried to do so over 2,000 years. Roman soldiers may have erected it, but it was God who has a hand in it. Many have seen it as they journeyed through life, and it has been of help and blessing to countless numbers of men and women, boys and girls.

It is not just the cross that is worn round the neck as an ornament or used as a sign for the Christian faith inside the church and out. It is the cross of Calvary where Jesus died – giving His life as an offering to God - the cross where all need to go by faith if they would have the knowledge and joy of sin forgiven and peace with God. It is at the cross of Calvary that the blood of Jesus cleanses from sin those who repent and believe the gospel.

Make this cross become the boundary stone from death to life and you’ll never want to move that!