Well Said….

Theme: Cross and Resurrection

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
—The Apostle Paul in *Galatians* 6:14

It is to the Cross that the Christian is challenged to follow his Master: no path of redemption can make a detour around it.
— Hans Urs von Balthasar, *Unless You Become Like This Child*

Despite our earnest efforts, we couldn't climb all the way up to God. So what did God do? In an amazing act of condescension, on Good Friday, God climbed down to us, became one with us. The story of divine condescension begins on Christmas and ends on Good Friday.
We thought, if there is to be business between us and God, we must somehow get up to God. Then God came down, down to the level of the cross, all the way down to the depths of hell. He who knew not sin took on our sin so that we might be free of it. God still stoops, in your life and mine, condescends. "Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" he asked his disciples, before his way up Golgotha. Our answer is an obvious, "No!" His cup is not only the cup of crucifixion and death, it is the bloody, bloody cup that one must drink if one is going to get mixed up in us.
Any God who would wander into the human condition, any God who has this thirst to pursue us, had better not be too put off by pain, for that's the way we tend to treat our saviors. Any God who tries to love us had better be ready to die for it. As G.K. Chesterton writes, "Any man who preaches real love is bound to beget hate…Real love has always ended in bloodshed."
— William H. Willimon, *Thank God It's Friday: Encountering the Seven Last Words from the Cross*

Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present….Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project, not to snatch people away from earth to heaven, but to colonize earth with the life of heaven.
— N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope*