One solitary life

here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

while still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. one of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. while He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. when He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

i am far within the mark when i say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

this essay was adapted from a sermon by dr james allan francis in "the real Jesus and other sermons" © 1926 by the judson press of philadelphia

i know this is a story many of you have heard before, but those of us who know and love our Lord are still moved. moved by the humbleness and love of a God who would descend so far from the heights He was accustomed to. He suffered the insults, pain and humiliation most would kill to avoid. and He had legions of angels at His beck and call all the while.

it was His amazing love for us that restrained Him from summoning them. it's that same love that pleads with hearts today: "come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." matt 11:28 it is a life and call many deny ever happened or they mock Him now as the did then. still He issues that call.

there are so called calvanists that believe God has preordained all and that all of mankind has no say in the matter. man has twisted around His doctrine in their confusion. they have confused the foreknowledge of God with predestination. no, i can't explain fully why God said "jacob I have loved, but esau I have hated" while they were still in the womb, without sin. but i know my God and He says, "and the Spirit and the bride say, "come!" and let him who hears say, "come!" and let him who thirsts come. whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely." rev 22:17 it is the free will God has given all that still has a says yea or nay. God "is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 pet 3:9 is He your Lord today? if not, i pray you will consider again the risks and rewards of your decision. time is running out.