

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

No. 74

April 2018

There They Crucified Him

Easter is not about the Easter bunny and brightly colored eggs, or enjoying a big meal. Easter is about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time to meditate on God's love and sacrifice for us.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (Jn. 15:13)

Here our Lord reveals to us the inconceivable love that moved Him to die for us. The cross of Christ is the measure by which we know how much Christ loves us. The purpose of Christ's life was to offer himself as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind. The Bible says, “he hath made him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21). In other words, Jesus became the sacrifice for sin so that we could be forgiven and found righteous in God's sight.

As we think of the cross of Calvary and the sufferings Christ endured for the salvation of our souls, truly we should be moved. What did it cost the Lord as he bore our sins in His body on the cross? Let us take a look at these aspects of Calvary:

It is a historical fact that “Christ died”

- 1) Think about the **FACT** that He died
 - a) He had to become human in order to be capable of death (Heb. 2:9, 14)
- 2) Think of the **PLACE** where He died
 - a) Calvary - it was a place that resembled a skull, a place that was covered with the skulls of dead people.
 - b) It was a place of crucifixion and public execution. Many a crime-stained felon had been torturously put to death there, foul language, wild shrieks and blasphemous oaths.
 - c) “And sitting down they watched Him there” (Matt. 27:36).
- 3) Think of the **DEATH** He died

“There they crucified him”

(Lk. 23:33; Matt. 27:35)

Have you ever thought about the agony behind those words?

- a) He was crucified, a lingering and torturously excruciating death; and not only that, but the most shameful, exposed, humiliating, infamous and accursed of all executions. It was the lowest, hardest, and most degrading of all deaths.

- b) They mocked Him. They took His garments off Him and put on Him a scarlet robe identifying and pretending it to be a special robe fit for a King. A king has a crown so they “platted a crown of thorns, and put it upon His head”. A king has a sceptre, so they put “a reed in His right hand”, and then, “they bowed the knee before Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!” (Matt. 27:28-29).
- c) What they didn’t realize is He is the “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” (Rev. 19:16) and that one day they will bow down before Him and acknowledge that word “LORD”.

4) Think of with **WHOM** He died

- a) It was not with a group of noble martyrs giving themselves for a lofty cause, it was between two criminals, two gangsters, murderers.
- b) There He was, propped up between the two, as though worse than either of them - suspended between earth and heaven.

5) Think of the **WAY** He died

- a) Although He had been betrayed, unjustly condemned, brutally whipped, mocked and nailed in agony, without one single crime that could be laid against Him, His first cry was, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Lk. 23:34) .
- b) Even the Pharisees confessed when they had nailed Him to the cross, “He saved others . . .” (Mk. 15:31).

6) Think of the **PURCHASE**

- a) As the Lord breathed his last breath he cried out, “It is finished” (Jn. 19:30) (the word in the original means “DONE”, a word of victory). In His death salvation and redemption had been secured for all those who place their faith and trust in Him. There on the cross of Calvary God’s son satisfied the demands of God’s justice for sin. He paid the debt that He did not owe and I owed the debt that I could not pay. Thank God He took the place of the guilty before the judgement bar of God and He secured redemption for His blood bought people. We are “not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold . . . but with the precious blood of Christ” (1 Pet. 1:18, 19). He bore our sins, that is the purchase, He bought you and me at Calvary.

God’s son had to die for you and me, he bore our sins in his own body on the tree, for he had made him to be sin for us who knew no sin (2 Cor. 5:21). There at the cross of Calvary hung heaven’s greatest treasure, and there on the cross of Calvary was history’s greatest transaction, for He bought my soul through His blood at Calvary, and they crucified Him for you and me.

We human beings are born to live BUT Christ was born to die. His death on Calvary was the supreme purpose of His birth at Bethlehem. “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15).

7) Think of Christ as **CONQUEROR**

- a) Death could not hold Christ. He rose from the dead, and later God took Him to glory. The tomb is empty, and the throne is occupied! Let us rejoice that we serve the risen, conquering Saviour.

Easter is a season of great gladness for those who know Christ, but for those who are without “the light of the knowledge of God’s glory” (2 Cor. 4:6), there is nothing to rejoice over.

Jesus left us with the great hope and certainty that He is going to return to bring a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21:1) where, we are told, there will be no more sorrow, trouble, or death for those who have believed and followed Him (Rev. 21:4). There will be trouble, sorrow, and suffering for those who have neglected or rejected Him (Rev. 21:8).

As Christians, our great task is to obey the command to tell the whole world about Christ crucified, buried, yet risen again. My prayer for you during this season of the year, when we meditate on our Savior’s great sacrifice for us on the cross, is that you will be filled with great peace and hope, because “He is risen!”

The head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor’s brow.

The highest place that heaven affords
Is His by sovereign right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords,
And heaven’s eternal light.

To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is given;
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above;
Their profit and their joy to know
The mystery of His love.

The cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him;
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.
... *Thomas Kelly*

What does the cross mean to you?

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”
(1 Cor. 1:17-24)



... *Yvonne Vernon*

www.scripturaltruths.org

e-mail: scripturaltruths1@shaw.ca

If you don't wish to receive future Newsletters, please send us an email and we will take your name off the Mailing List.

If you change your e-mail address, please forward your new one so that we can update our Mailing List.