

The Crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ (2)

Introduction

- A. The Crucifixion is more than a central doctrine to be believed, more than a momentous historical event to be commemorated, and more than a provision for spiritual cleansing to be received -- it was a six hour period in which a person, Jesus Christ, endured all the agony and suffering of divine judgment that would ever be found in Hell.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:5,6

- B. As we work together through this lesson we must always keep in mind that we are doing so in the shadow of a horrible event in which a Person suffered a depth of agony that is beyond our comprehension. And, that He did that in our place, as our substitute, out of love for us. We must keep Him in mind and respond to Him and His suffering more with our heart -- in love and thanksgiving -- than with our head.

I. The Crucifixion Was And Is A Divine Demonstration Of Momentous Truths.

- A. It was a demonstration (proof, evidence) of God's love for us.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5:8

Questions: How are we to define/explain that love? Why did He love us? What effect did that love have on the Lord Jesus? What effect should that love have on us?

- B. It was a demonstration (proof, evidence) of our personal and corporate sinfulness.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree ... I Peter 2:24a

Questions: What kinds of suffering did the Savior endure? What kind was the hardest for Him? What does such suffering tell us regarding our sin -- and of Hell?

- C. It was a demonstration (proof, evidence) of our Savior's substitutionary sacrifice.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Gal 3:13

Questions: What was the "curse of the Law"? What happened when Jesus Christ became "a curse for us"? What does it mean to be "redeemed ...from the curse"?

II. The Crucifixion Was and Is a Demonstration of a Powerful Redemptive Provision.

A. It was a powerful redemptive deliverance from the guilt of sin.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. Eph 1:7

Questions: What do these words mean: "redemption," "through His blood," "forgiveness of sins," and "In accordance with the riches of God's grace"?

B. It was a powerful redemptive deliverance from the ownership of Satan.

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Heb 2:14,15

Questions: How did the devil obtain "the power of death" so people are "held in slavery" by him? How did the Lord Jesus, in His death, break the hold of Satan?

C. It was a powerful redemptive deliverance from the demands of God's holy law.

For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. Rom 8:3,4

Questions: What were some of "the righteous requirements of the law"? Why could we not keep the law? How did the Lord Jesus fulfill the law? How can the laws "be fully met in us"?

D. It was a powerful redemptive deliverance from the bondage of the world system.

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Gal 6:14

Questions: What is meant by the word "world"? Find another passage that describes the "world." Name some of the ways the world controls us. What are we to do with such control? How has the world been crucified to us?

E. It was a powerful redemptive deliverance from the slavery to indwelling sin.

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. Rom 6:6

Questions: What is meant by "our old self" and "the body of sin"? How are we often "slaves to sin"? What must we do when such slavery appears in our life?