

Christology

Lesson 11

Study Notes

The Death of Jesus Christ

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Text: Luke 23:44-46.

Introduction: Dr. John Walvoord writes: Christ's death fully satisfied the demands of a righteous God for judgement upon sinners and, as their infinite sacrifice, provided a ground not only for the believer's forgiveness, but for his _____ and sanctification. The death of Jesus Christ paid the price of our redemption, and gave us not _____ forgiveness but _____ forgiveness. His death is the final atonement of sins and has brought us into reconciliation with a holy God. Remember it was not God that needed to reconcile to us; but we needed to be reconciled to Him.

1John 4:9-10 *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

The word "propitiation" comes from an old English word propitiate, which means "_____ " thus, propitiation expresses the idea that Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for sin which a holy God demanded of man the sinner. Christ became our _____ so that we could go free. Here is a story that was written by Major D. W. Whittle entitled "Willie Lear, the Substitute."

Willie Lear lived near Palmyra, Missouri. In 1862 he was a young man of about 18 years of age. Like most of those who lived in his neighborhood, he sympathized with the south in the Civil War, which was at that time in progress. The Union forces occupied Palmyra and had control of the district. Outrages were committed on both sides, and many indefensible deeds are recorded in the local histories of those sad times. Union soldiers were shot down from behind hedges, and Union men were driven away from their homes, and sometimes foully treated. To avenge these things and to check them, the Federal commander arrested and imprisoned a large number of citizens. They were all charged with being "guerillas," and, after trial by court-martial, were all sentenced to be shot. Willie Lear was among the number. After this condemnation, the general decided to select ten of the number of those condemned for immediate execution, and reserve the remainder under hope of pardon if outrages in the neighborhood ceased, or for future punishment if not. These ten men were drawn by lot. Willie Lear was not of this number. A neighbor of Lear's who was among the number to be shot, was terribly distressed at the thought of his situation. He was the father of a large family, a poor man, and the thought of the helpless condition in which he would leave his loved ones was very distressing to him.

Lear saw all of this, and it deeply moved him. He stepped forward to the commanding officer and offered to take his neighbor's place. The officer had no objection. The order had been issued that ten men of the number should be shot, and if that number was made up, the law would be satisfied. The neighbor with the deepest of gratitude accepted Lear as his substitute: and so, by the acquiescence of the three parties concerned, the representative of the law, the condemned by the law, and the satisfier of the law by substitution, the matter was settled. Willie Lear took the place of his friend in the line with

the nine men drawn up before a detachment prepared with loaded rifles, and at the command, "Fire" he, with the others, fell, riddled with bullets, his blood soaking the earth. As the man for whom he died looked upon that blood, and beheld that mangled body, what would be his thought? Would he not say, with streaming eyes: "He died for me. I owe my life to him. O that I could do anything to show my gratitude to one who has done so much for me!" If he were asked, "How is it that you are delivered from the sentence that was hanging over you?" would he be apt to ignore the work of his substitute by magnifying the importance of some fancied work of his own in the acceptance of the substitute? Would he say "Oh I was saved by my faith, and by my determination to live a better life. It is all by faith and development of character?" Would he have been so ungrateful as to leave out all mention of the death of the noble young man in his stead as the alone cause of his escape? If he would, he was not worth dying for, and it was a curse to his family and the community that he was spared. But no, he never returned such answers. He could not treat the act of his friend with such indifference.

Men for whom Christ died on the cross talk that way; but this man never did. He never tired of telling how Willie Lear had saved him, and gladly acknowledged his obligation to him.

I. The Surety of Christ Death Foretold by the Prophets.

During the six hours on the cross, _____ separate Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled.

Luke 24:25-27 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

II. The Sovereignty of Christ Death.

Consider this Jesus' death was the only death not _____; for Him, death was _____ chosen.

A. Jesus controlled the _____ of His Death.

The disciples remembered his words after his resurrection about the method he would die.

Luke 24:7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

B. Jesus controlled the _____ of His death.

John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

We are told that when death approaches the dying are overcome with weakness and then there is the final gasp before the physical frame collapses; but this was not so with our Lord. The Bible says that He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost. The fact that Jesus would "bow" his head has the same idea as when He would bow his head to sleep; just as deliberately as Jesus would bow to sleep He would position His head in strength and confidence to commend His spirit to the Father.

C. Jesus controlled the _____ of His death.

Luke 23:46 *And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.*

To us, death is always the master, but to Him death was His _____. He "commended" His spirit. The word "commend" is "_____" much like a doctor dismisses a patient when He is through with him. Jesus gave up His life because He willed it, when He willed it, and as He willed it.

III. The Supernatural Events at Christ's Death.

A. The Darkness.

Matthew 27:45 *Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.*

Jesus was placed upon the cross at 9 A.M. ("third hour" Mark 15:25). After three hours had passed, a supernatural darkness enveloped all the land from the sixth to the ninth hour (noon to 3 P.M.) Since _____ occurred at the full moon, this darkness could not have been a solar eclipse.

B. The Rending of the Veil.

Matthew 27:51 *And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;*

According to the Rabbis this was a handbreadth in thickness, and woven of _____ twisted plaits, each plait consisting of _____ threads. It was _____ feet long and _____ feet wide, Two of them were made every year, and according to the exaggerated language of the time it needed three hundred priest to manipulate it. This would symbolize the _____ opening of God's presence to man and man's direct access to God through the atoning death of Christ.

C. The earthquake.

Whether this earthquake reached only to the spot of ground where Christ was crucified, and on which the city and temple of Jerusalem stood; or whether it extended to other parts of the earth; since, in the reign of Tiberius Caesar, as Pliny relates, there was an earthquake, in which twelve cities in Asia fell, is not certain. The earthquake was a _____ of God's judgment on those who had crucified the Lord.

D. The Rending of the rocks.

Extraordinary rents and fissures have been observed in the rocks near this spot.

E. The opening of the graves.

Matthew 27:52 *And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

It is properly supposed that they were resurrected from "_____" or "Abraham's bosom" and taken to heaven by the resurrected Christ. This proved that Jesus' death was not a normal death; but proved to be a climax of history.

IV. The Sore Wounds of Christ.

The Prophet Isaiah tells us that Christ was "wounded for our transgressions" Surgeons determine that there are five kinds of wounds.

A. *The contused wound.* A wound that is produced by a _____.

Matthew 27:30 *And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.*

B. *The lacerated wound.* A wound produced by a _____ instrument. Christ received by the scourging.

Mathew 27:26 *Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.*

C. *The penetrating wound.* A deep wound caused by a _____ instrument. The crown of thorns

Matthew 27:29 *And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!*

D. *The perforating wound.* It receives its name from the Latin word meaning "to _____"

Psalms 22:16 *For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.*

The New Testament does not mention the actual driving of the nails into His hands and feet; however, His display to Thomas is evidence that it actually took place.

John 20:27 *Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.*

E. *The incised wound.* The cut produced by a _____ instrument.

John 19:34 *But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.*

This was not what ended the Lord's life but it was assurance to all men that He had died.