

Meditations on the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

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 Title: "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for man for forgiveness of sins"
 Text: Matthew 26:20-30
 Theme: The fellowship of His suffering always precedes the power of His Resurrection. The cross is always before the crown. God has given to His church a means of remembering and celebrating the power of the cross as a past fact, a present reality, and a future hope.

Why teach on this subject matter?

Our culture makes little of what Christ has done. Their actions towards it minimize and dismiss the significance of His cross-work.

On Sunday, we considered three ideas as to the life and death of Jesus Christ.

- I. The life and death of Jesus Christ was an intentional offering not an accidental event (Matt. 26:28, Mark 14:24, Luke 22:20).
- II. The life and death of Jesus Christ establishes the New Covenant (Matt. 26:28, Mark 14:24, Luke 22:20, 1 Cor. 11:25).
- III. The life and death of Jesus Christ is the means and basis whereby God can forgive the sins against Him (Matt. 26:28, 1 John 1:7, Rev. 7:14).

As we continue to examine the Passion of our Lord in His death, burial, and resurrection, I would like us to think once more on the life and death of Jesus Christ.

We have remembered and celebrated the Lord's life and death for us as we participated in the Lord's Table. There are two ideas that I would like us to note in this present study.

- IV. The life and death of Jesus Christ must be appropriated by faith in order to be effectual in the life of those who believe (John 6:53-56).

⁵³ "So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. ⁵⁴ He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him'" (John 6:53-36).

"Jesus' hearers must have been shocked and puzzled by His enigmatic words. But the puzzle is unlocked by understanding that Jesus was speaking of His making atonement by His death and giving life to those who personally appropriate Him. Faith in Christ's life and death brings eternal life (vv. 40, 47, 50, 51)." (BKC, "John," Edwin A. Blum, 297).

“Outside the Eucharist an admonition to drink blood in any other Jewish setting would be incomprehensible.” (Baker Commentary on the Bible, “John,” Gary M. Burge, 856).

John 6 uses symbolic speech to address a spiritual matter. His imagery enables the audience to lay hold of an idea that is otherworldly.

“Christ uses bold imagery to picture spiritual appropriation of himself who is to give his life-blood for the life of the world.” (Robertson's Word Pictures)

It is difficult to ascertain as to whether or not Jesus is making any reference to the Lord’s Table in John 6. He is about one year away from celebrating the Passover with His disciples during Passion Week. I cannot, however, exclude the idea from the statement. If it is not a direct reference to something that is still future, I would at least suggest that the imagery will be consistent with what is going to happen.

“If the Eucharist is still at issue the message is clear: its physical elements ‘count for nothing’ if the Spirit’s power is not present (v. 63).” (Baker Commentary on the Bible, “John,” Gary M. Burge, 856).

This same idea is present in 1 Corinthians 10:16.

“is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?” (1 Cor. 10:16)

When we come to the Lord’s Table, **we are revisiting our commitment to the finished work of Jesus Christ**. There is to be a point in time when we come to Christ and take what He has provided in order that He would become for us life.

V. The life and death of Jesus Christ redeems/purchased for Himself the church (Acts 20:28, Rev. 5:9).

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, **to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood**” (Acts 20:28).

The word “to purchase” does not come from the same word family as redeem, but the idea is the same. To redeem an item is to have purchased it. The blood of Jesus Christ redeems from sin (Eph. 1:7, 1 Pet. 1:18, 19, Rev. 1:5).

“In Him **we have redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace” (Eph. 1:7).

¹⁸ “knowing that you were not **redeemed** with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but **with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ**” (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

“and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. **To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood**” (Rev. 1:5).

“and they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the book and to break its seals; for you were slain, and **purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation**” (Rev. 5:9).

The redemptive activity of Jesus Christ releases His people from their sins and causes them to be His by purchase.

This is the same idea captured in 1 Corinthians 6:19 and 20.

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body” (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

When we come to the Table this is what we are remembering and this is what we are declaring.

APPLICATION: (Where do we go from here?)

In our remembering and celebration of the Lord’s Table we are remembering what He did for us when He died on Calvary’s cross. What He did is of no eternal value unless we appropriate its truth for ourselves.

God sent His only begotten Son in order that He might be the Savior of the world. If you do not come through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, then you will be separated from God forever.

It is a hard saying. Listen to Peter’s thoughts in John 6:66-69.

⁶⁶ “As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, ‘You do not want to go away also, do you?’ ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God’” (John 6:66-69).

Are You Sure of Your Relationship with God?

Do you know where you will spend your life after death? If you are not sure, we invite you to prayerfully consider the following information:

1. Recognize that you are a sinner.
 - Your sin separates you from God (Rom. 3:23).

“For all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious standard” (Rom. 3:23).

- Your sin results in judgment against you (Rom. 5:12, 6:23).

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).

2. Realize that God’s holiness demands payment for sin.

- Because God loves you, Jesus died in your place for your sins (Rom. 5:8).

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners” (Rom. 5:8).

3. Receive God’s forgiveness.

- Acknowledge you are a sinner deserving the judgment of hell (Rom. 3:23, 6:23).
- And believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior (Acts 16:31, Rom. 10:9-13).

“For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10:9).

The gift God extends to you in the person and work of Jesus Christ is yours for the taking. It is yours for the asking. How do you ask God for this gift?

You can pray a simple prayer like the following.

“Jesus, I know that you died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins. You rose from the dead to prove that you have conquered sin and death so all who believes in you can have their sins forgiven and live with you forever in heaven. I now trust you and believe that you have paid the penalty for my sin and you are now making me a member of your family forever. I turn away from my sins and now receive you as my Savior and Lord. Thank you, Jesus, for loving me and saving me. Amen.”

If you would like to discuss the above information and would like someone to pray with you, please feel free to contact us.