

“But the LORD was Pleased to Crush Him, Putting Him to Grief”

Acts 2:22-24

Passion Week 2005

Because those who are perishing see the cross-work as foolishness and a stumbling block (1 Cor 1:18-23) they crucified the Lord of glory (1 Cor 2:8). But is this the only perspective available to us? Is there not another way of viewing Christ crucified?

Peter’s theme is to prove that Jesus of Nazareth is both Lord and Christ (v. 36). He goes about proving his point by, “rehearsing the ministry, death and triumph of Jesus.”

- I. The power of the Father in Christ - God worked through Jesus Christ attesting to His divine authority (v. 22)

Our text tells us that Jesus Christ was a man “attested” to by God through the performing of miracles, wonders, and signs. This testimony is “To declare, to show, to prove what kind of person anyone is.” The Father placed His divine approval on the Son by working in Him and through Him His perfect will.

- II. The plan of the Father for Christ - God planned for Jesus Christ to die by the hands of godless men (v. 23)

Peter’s preaching insists that “the Cross was no accident. It belonged to the eternal plan of God (v. 23). Over and over again Acts states that the Cross is in the eternal plan of God.” (Barclay, Acts, 21).

There are two ideas I would like us to consider in this verse.

- A. The plan of the Father for Christ

There are four key ideas contained in this one verse.

1. First, God delivered His Son over into the hands of godless men.
2. Second, God determined beforehand the death of His Son at the hands of godless men.
3. Third, God was intimately involved in the death of His Son.
4. Fourth, God used godless men to accomplish His plan.

How the actions of free moral agents work out God’s eternal purpose is beyond me, but I find comfort knowing that the cross was not an accident.

How could God take pleasure in the savage death of His only begotten Son?

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B. The pleasure of the Father in Christ

There are perhaps three aspects to this.

1. His Son fully obeyed the Father's will (Heb 12:2).
2. The Father saw the outcome of His Son's actions in the redeeming of His people (Is 53:10-12).
3. The Father saw His Son's future exaltation (Phil 2:8, 9).

III. The prevailing of the Father through Christ - God raised Jesus Christ out from the power of death (v. 24)

The sufferings of Christ were against a limited obstacle that is temporal in nature. The statement shows the absolute impossibility of death holding sway over the Son of God.

This Sunday we will examine point three in detail.