

How That Christ Died

Harmony M.B.C., November 15, 2009 (Morning)

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1Cor 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

1Cor 15:2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

1Cor 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;

1Cor 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures:

These remarks in verses one and two have been misunderstood by many people, and the reason they have is the same reason so much of the bible is misunderstood by people who are ever learning and never coming to the knowledge of the truth. That reason is that, like so much other scripture, verses one and two are taken out of context by folks who misunderstand them. The apostle is writing to the Church at Corinth here about a heresy that has sprung up among them; namely that there is no resurrection from the dead. If we look in verses 12 and onward, he gets into the meat of this controversy and you can read there that he re-emphasizes there what he had already written about here. That is if they failed to remember and believe the very foundation of the gospel...that Christ had risen from the dead...their belief or faith was in vain. The reason it would be in vain would be that they would be believing in an un-risen Christ. That is the gist of his argument which begins here in verses one and two and continues on through most of this chapter. How we understand these verses is dependent on understanding the context of his statements. Plainly stated, if anyone anywhere believes in a Christ who has not risen, they are believing in vain, because the entire hope of the soul rests on the expectation of being resurrected from the dead by a Christ who has power to do just that. And a Christ who has not risen himself cannot resurrect anybody else.

While I felt the need to point this out, that is not the subject of the Lord's message this morning. Actually, while the subject is about the entire span of the gospel of Christ, I will focus on the death of Christ primarily. To do that, I want us to focus on the phrase in verse 3, "...how that Christ died for our sins." I believe the Holy Spirit had the apostle write this statement in exactly these words so that it would give us a biblical place to think about HOW that Christ died for our sins. We so often testify that Christ died for our sins, and when we witness to someone concerning the gospel, we always include the message that Christ died for our sins; but how often do we think, present, or discuss HOW Christ died for our sins. I believe that most of the time when we think about the HOW we have a mental image of the cross, and what it represents; that is, a cruel death of torture as a criminal. Well, that is part of HOW Christ died for our sins, but only part. We want this morning to look at as much of the rest of HOW as time will allow. We will look at two thoughts: 1) Christ's Died as a Premeditated Act and 2) Christ Died as a all-sufficient Redeemer.

I. Christ Died For Our Sins As a Premeditated Act

- This is the “HOW that Christ died” which shows that God was in charge of this event from beginning to end
- He did not die a victim of circumstances, made to be a target for a bunch of maniac Jews or a political necessity for a weak governor.
 - > Peter to the Jews that killed Him: Acts 2:23 “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:”
 - > Jesus Himself to Pilate during His trial: John 19:10-11 “Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? 11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power *at all* against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.”
- This event was planned among God the Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit before the foundation of the world
 - > 1Cor. 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: (What was Paul writing about? The gospel.)
 - > Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
 - > 1Peter 1:18-20 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,
- So, how did Christ die for our sins? He died as the result of a premeditated plan, laid down before the world began and for the exact intent stated in our text: “for our sins.”

II. Christ Died For Our Sins As An All Sufficient Redeemer

- To be an all sufficient Redeemer, Christ had to satisfy God in our behalf on several fronts - how He died was such that He DID satisfy God in our behalf on all fronts.
- When He died, He **accepted the penalty of the law of God against sin in our behalf** (“the soul that sinneth, it shall die) - the criminal He was charged with being was a charge that applied to us for whom He was substituting
 - > Col. 2:14 “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;”
- How did He die? He died as our Great Physician: Isa. 53:4 “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”
- How did He die? He died **accepting our punishment for sin**. (Satisfying the justice of God about sin payment for our sins)
 - > Isa 53:5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities:

- the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.
- How did He die? He died as an obedient servant in our behalf. Php. 2:8 “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and **became obedient unto death**, even the death of the cross.”
 - How did He die? He died a Conqueror and a Deliverer. Dying as an all sufficient Redeemer, He secured forever our complete salvation.
 - > Heb 10:14 “For by one offering he hath **perfected forever** them that are sanctified.”
 - > Heb 2:11 “For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,”
 - > So we can understand that “sanctified” means permanently set apart unto the Lord: Acts 26:18 (Christ speaks to Paul on the Damascus road about what his future ministry is to be about) “To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are **sanctified by faith that is in me.**”
 - > The permanent nature of our salvation as secured by Christ the Deliverer is seen in John 10:28 “And I give unto them **eternal** life; and they shall **never perish**, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.”

III. Brief Remarks Regarding the Rest of The Gospel Message

“...and that He was buried...”

Not “lying in state,” but buried being dead as He was sealed away in a tomb; wound up in grave clothes with preserving spices; all the earmarks of physical death

“...and that He rose again the third day...”

His signature of power over sin, death, the grave

The seal from God that His sacrifice was accepted

His message to us that we are also alive forevermore