

April 6, 2014

The Passion of Christ

Romans 6:3-11

All Stand and Read Scripture

Romans 6:3-11

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.

⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Prayer

INTRODUCTION:

I. What is the “passion” of Christ?

A. The Greek word for “passion” means suffering. It is used in Acts 1:1-3.

Acts 1:1-3

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹ The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when He was taken up *to heaven*, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. ³ To

these He also presented Himself alive after His **suffering**, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of forty days* and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

The KJV version says in verse 3, “he shewed himself alive after his **passion** by many infallible proofs”. So “passion” and “suffering” are the same.

This is the same word as used in I Pet. 4:13.

1 Peter 4:13

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³ but to the degree that you share the **sufferings** of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

The same word is also found in the first part of Col. 1:24.

Colossians 1:24

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my **sufferings** for your sake,

- B. The “passion” of Christ is the period of intense suffering in the life of Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane through the crucifixion.
- C. What does it mean to be passionate? Webster's Dictionary defines passion as an "extreme, compelling emotion or intense emotional drive."

II. Without question, the suffering of Christ, leading up to and including the crucifixion was terrible...

- A. He prayed fervently all night on the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Luke 22:41-44

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴¹ And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and *began* to pray, ⁴² saying, "**Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.**" ⁴³ Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in **agony** He was praying very fervently; and His **sweat became like drops of blood**, falling down upon the ground.

- B. He was betrayed by a kiss from Judas. He was one of the twelve disciples who had seen Jesus' miracles and had been taught by Jesus and had seen His miracles. Yet, he betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver. Although Christ knew that it was going to happen, no doubt Christ was saddened that Judas fell away from Him and hanged himself.
- C. Christ went through a scourging, had a crown of thorns placed on His head, and was beaten. They spat in His face and mocked Him

Matthew 26:67

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁶⁷ Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him,

Matthew 27:26-31

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁶ Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified. ²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole *Roman* cohort around Him. ²⁸ They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. ²⁹ And after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ They spat on Him, and took the reed and *began* to beat Him on the head. ³¹ After they had mocked Him, they took the *scarlet* robe off Him and put His *own* garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

Can you imagine, the creator of everything, our creator, going through all of this? The scourging was done with a Roman "Cat of Nine Tails". Christ was bent over at the waist and was bound to a whipping post. They would whip the back with pieces of bone, stone, and metal. It would rip and cut and slash the back of a person. Many people did not survive the whipping post when they were scourged.

- C. Christ's clothes were stripped from Him at the cross He was nailed to the cross naked. Roman crucifixion involved three nails, with one in each wrist (or hand) and one through both ankles to secure the person's feet. There was a standing platform underneath the feet. His knees were bent

so it would prolong His death. As He was hanging, he would start to suffocate, but by pressing His feet against the platform, he could raise Himself up and get a gasp of air. This would cause **excruciating pain!** He would go through the motions several times, until He no longer had the strength to raise Himself.

III. While there may be a place for contemplating upon the physical passion Jesus endured...

A. He did not want people to weep for Him, but for themselves.

Luke 23:27-28

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁷ And following Him was a large crowd of the people, and of women who were mourning and lamenting Him. ²⁸ But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.

B. His concern for others was evident, even on the cross.
First, to the Soldiers.

Luke 23:33-34

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³³ When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. ³⁴ But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

Then, to one of the thieves on the cross.

Luke 23:41-43

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴¹ And we indeed *are suffering* justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" ⁴³ And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

BODY:

The significance and lessons to be learned from the suffering of Jesus should go far beyond feeling sorry for what He endured.

I would like to suggest **four things** we should never forget that "**The Passion Of Christ**" provided...

I. THE CONDEMNATION OF SIN

A. JESUS SUFFERED BECAUSE OF SIN...

1. As foretold, He died for our sins

Isaiah 53:5-6

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

2. He gave of Himself by bearing our sins on the cross.

1 Peter 2:20-24

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁰ For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.

²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ²² WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; ²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

May the thought of His passion remind us of our own sinfulness and the need for redemption.

B. JESUS KILLED SIN...

1. He condemned sin in the flesh through His death.

Romans 8:3-4

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

2. Making it possible for sinners to destroy their own body of sin, when united with Him by baptism into His death - [Ro 6:3-6](#)

May the thought of His passion remind us of our duty to crucify the sinful lusts of the flesh - [Ga 5:24](#); [Col 3:5-11](#)

To motivate us in our efforts to let Jesus' suffering help us deal with the problem of sin, we should also remember that, secondly, "**The Passion Of The Christ**" provided...

II. THE REVELATION OF LOVE

A. JESUS SUFFERED BECAUSE OF LOVE...

1. The love of the Father for a lost world.

John 3:16

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

2. The love of the Son.

Ephesians 5:1-2

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

May our contemplation of His passion never neglect the love that was behind the fact - [1Jn 4:9-10](#)

B. JESUS THEREBY DEMONSTRATED WHAT TRUE LOVE IS...

1. We now understand the meaning of true love - [1Jn 3:16](#); [Jn 15:13](#)
2. His love serves as the pattern for our love - [Jn 13:34-35](#); [15:12](#)

May our contemplation of His passion remind us of the high standard of love we are called to show toward one another - [1Jn 4:11](#)

As we strive to overcome sin and love one another, assisted and motivated by the suffering of Jesus, we should also be mindful that, thirdly, "**The Passion Of Christ**" provided...

III. THE REDEMPTION OF THE WORLD

A. JESUS SUFFERED FOR ALL...

1. God desires all men to be saved, not desiring any to perish - [1Ti 2:3-6](#); [2Pe 3:9](#)
2. Therefore He offered Jesus as a propitiation (act of regaining God's favor) for all - [1Jn 2:1-2](#)

May our meditation upon His passion include thinking about the needs of others.

B. JESUS IS THE WORLD'S ONLY HOPE...

1. He is the only way to the Father - [Jn 14:6](#)
2. Only in His name is salvation to be found - [Ac 4:12](#)
3. Deny the Son, and one does not have the Father - [1Jn 2:23](#)
4. Abide in His doctrine, and one has both the Father and the Son - [2Jn 9](#)

May our meditation upon His passion move us to do what we can to proclaim the message of redemption to those lost in sin - [2Co 5:18-6:1](#)

And so the suffering of Jesus on the cross should prompt us to look both inward and outward, to address both our spiritual needs and those of others. To what extent effort may be required in these areas, we should also view "**The Passion Of The Christ**" as...

IV. THE INSPIRATION OF SACRIFICE

A. JESUS PROVIDED THE EXAMPLE...

1. His suffering demonstrated the mind of humility - [Php 2:3-8](#)
2. His suffering demonstrated the example of suffering patiently - [1Pe 2:20-24](#)

May our reflection upon His passion move us to consider what His sacrifice should inspire us to do

B. JESUS' SACRIFICE IS DESIGNED TO INSPIRE US...

1. To walk in love - [Ep 5:2](#)
2. To walk in humility - [Php 2:3-5](#)

3. To suffer patiently when mistreated for doing good - [1Pe 2:20-24](#)
4. To give of ourselves to others - [2Co 8:9](#); [1Jn 3:16-18](#)

May our reflection upon His passion inspire us to a higher plan of devotion to God and others!

CONCLUSION:

- I. Hopefully, these few thoughts will increase our appreciation of Christ's suffering...
 - A. His passion provided **the condemnation of sin**
 - B. His passion provided **the revelation of love**
 - C. His passion provided **the redemption of the world**
 - D. His passion provided **the inspiration of sacrifice**
- II. Have you taken advantage of what "**The Passion Of Christ**" means for you?

Remember the opening scripture from **Romans 6:3-11**.

- A. Have you been crucified with Christ?

³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

- B. Are you putting to death the deeds of the flesh?

⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.

- C. Are you concerned and doing something about the redemption of the world?

The last thing Jesus said to the disciples before He ascended to Heaven was the Final Commission as recorded in Matt.28:18-20

Matthew 28:18-20

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- D. Are you growing in love?

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

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¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

If you do not know Christ as your personal Savior, the window of opportunity is open for you now. God wants to come into your life. If you have not been baptized into Christ, won't you come forward this morning and let God know that you are ready to turn your life around for Him and start obeying His commands?

If you have wandered away from the Lord and the Holy Spirit is convicting you this morning to come back home, the invitation is open to you to rededicate your life to Christ by stepping forward.

We are also here with open arms, if you would like to identify yourself as part of this family of God in the Greenwood Christian church.

The Family of God

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.