

Death That There May Be Life

I. The Importance of the Death of Christ:

A. Christ's death is foretold in the OT (Isaiah 53:3-9; Luke 24:26-27)

B. Christ's death is the chief purpose of the incarnation (Matt 20:28; Luke 9:22, 44)

- His death was not an afterthought nor an accident, but the accomplishment of a definite purpose in connection with the incarnation:

- The incarnation is not an end in itself, but a means to an end, and that end is the redemption of the lost through the death of Christ on the cross:

- His suffering did not begin at the cross but at His incarnation and that suffering finally reached its climax at the end of His life:

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C. Christ's death is fundamental to the gospel (Luke 24:44-49; 1 Cor 1:18; 2:1-5)

D. Christ's death is essential to the Christian life (9:22-23)

E. Christ's death is essential to our Salvation (19:10; 22:19, 20)

- "My body which is being given for you (ὁπὲρ ὑμῶν)"

- "Being poured out for you (ὁπὲρ ὑμῶν) is the new covenant in My blood"

I. The Importance of the Death of Christ:

II. The Ironies Surrounding the Death of Christ:

A. Christ the Prophet:

1. Christ Mocked as a Prophet (22:63-65)

2. Christ's Prophecy of Peter is Fulfilled (22:34, cf. 22:54-62)

I. The Importance of the Death of Christ:

II. The Ironies Surrounding the Death of Christ:

A. Christ the Prophet:

B. Christ the Righteous:

1. Christ Pronounced Innocent, but Treated Guilty (23:4, 13-15, 20-22)

2. Christ Murdered and a Murderer Set Free (23:18-19, 24-25)

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B. Christ the Righteous:

C. Christ the Peacemaker:

- In 23:12 we find a piece of sadistic irony in that, thanks to the mutual mistreatment of Jesus, Herod and Pilate became friends:

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II. The Ironies Surrounding the Death of Christ:

A. Christ the Prophet:

B. Christ the Righteous:

C. Christ the Peacemaker:

D. Christ the Lamented:

1. Christ is wept for but the Women should have wept for themselves (23:27-31)

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E. Christ the Crucified:

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1. Christ accepted by the thief but not by the Jewish nation (23:33-43)
2. At the cross, evil seemed to prevail (darkness fell over the whole land v. 44)
3. But actually righteousness won the day (the veil of the temple was torn, thus opening the way to a holy God because of the death of Jesus v. 45)
4. The Jewish leaders thought that they delivered up Jesus to death (vv. 33-45)
5. But in reality Jesus delivered His own spirit up to death and the Father (v. 46)
6. Three groups that began the crucifixion with mockery:
 - The people vv. 18-23
 - The leaders v. 35
 - The soldiers vv. 36-37

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7. Some from these three groups end the crucifixion with sorrow and even confession:
 - The centurion v. 47
 - The people v. 48
 - Joseph of Arimathea vv. 50-53

- I. The Importance of the Death of Christ:
- II. The Ironies Surrounding the Death of Christ:
- III. The Inescapable Reality of the Death of Christ:

A. As seen in the Garden of Gethsemane (22:44)

- Here Christ is experiencing intense agony:
- "Hematidrosis" (intense agony causes the release of chemicals that break down the capillaries in the sweat glands, causing bleeding into those glands)
- This has not only an effect on the glands but also on the skin, causing it to become extremely fragile and very, very sensitive:

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- III. The Inescapable Reality of the Death of Christ:
 - A. As seen in the Garden of Gethsemane (22:44)
 - B. As seen in the Roman flogging (John 19:1; Luke 22:63)

- Roman scourgings were extremely brutal:
- One physician who studied Roman floggings said, 'As the flogging continued, the lacerations would tear into the underlying skeletal muscles and produce quivering ribbons of bloody flesh'.
- Eusebius describes a flogging saying, 'The sufferer's veins were laid bare, and the very muscles, sinews, and bowels of the victim were open to exposure'.

- This would lead to the death of some and to 'hypovolemic' shock in others:
- Hypovolemic shock is when a person in suffering the effects of losing a large amount of blood:
- Four things happen when this takes place –
 - 1) The heart races trying to pump blood that is no longer there:
 - 2) The blood pressure drops, resulting in fainting or collapse:
 - 3) The kidneys cease to produce urine in order to maintain the volume that is left:
 - 4) The victim becomes thirsty; the body craving fluids to replace the volume of blood loss:

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 - C. As seen in the crucifixion (23:33)

- Spikes would have passed through the 'median nerve,' the largest nerve going to the hand.
- This act was so 'excruciating' that a word was made up to describe it ('excruciating' means "out of the cross").

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 - C. As seen in the crucifixion (23:33)
 - D. As seen in the death itself (Luke 23:46; John 19:32-34)
- 'Asphyxiation' is the agonizing slow death on the cross:
 - As the victim's breathing slows down, the victim goes into 'respiratory acidosis' (the carbon dioxide in the blood is dissolved as carbonic acid, which causes the acidity of the blood to increase):
 - Eventually leading to an irregular heartbeat:

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