

The Saving Work of Christ – Part One

By

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In a few weeks we will be coming into the Easter season of the year and we want to reflect upon the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. I hope we can each one make some personal application of these Biblical and Historical facts to our own daily lives.

There is no question that Jesus was a literal person who lived on our earth, for even history bears testimony to this historical truth. Likewise there is no question that he was crucified. The Music of our world along with its art and the many books that have been written about Jesus all bear testimony and witness of his existence. As we shared with you before, even the Atheist bears witness to his existence, every time they write the date of the calendar in their writings for the calendar is dated from Christ's birth.

As we look at the words of Christ from the cross, we see some very powerful and interesting truths that open our understanding as to who that Jesus really was, is and shall ever be. On the cross Jesus cried "It is finished!" We carefully note that he did not say, "I am finished." for he was not finished for the plan of God did not include his being truly over at this time. As we study the Scriptures we note at the time of his death on the cross that he went to Hell and preached to those souls who had gone there through death.

1 Peter 3:19-21, "By whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water." NKJV

Eph. 4:8-10, "Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" — what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)" NKJV

His preaching was to confirm who he is, and to declare the justice of God over men and their lives lived on the earth. Then he ascended right after his physical bodily resurrection from the grave, to Heaven where his father is (Acts. 19-11).

We note in Scripture that at this time he took his shed blood to the mercy seat in heaven to seal the redemption for all who believing God personally receive the Lord Jesus Christ into their own hearts and lives. When Jesus cried "It is finished." he was declaring that he had accomplished what he came to this earth to do in the plan of God. It was a declaration that all that was needed to forgive and save man from eternal death had been done, finished, completed once for all at that time.

Ro 6:10-11, "For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God." NKJV

Aren't we thankful that this never has to be repeated again? The writer of the book of the Hebrews declares that Jesus Christ died "One for all for our sin" (Heb. 7:27; 9:12; 10:10). These words are not bitter words crying out in despair, but rather words of eternal victory for each of us who make Him our own personal Savior, Lord and God. John 19 tells us that.

Jn 19:28-30, "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled . . . He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit." NKJV

Jesus died by a determined plan in the will of the sovereign God, planned from before the world and man was created. The book of Revelation (13:8) declares that Jesus is God's lamb slain in the mind of God from before the beginning of time. How great a God to make the plan for man's salvation, before He created the world and man and even before man fell into sin and rebellion against God. Let us keep in mind that Jesus submitted himself to this plan willingly, voluntarily. Let us also take careful note that he paid the debt that we each one

owes to our holy God. Jesus did it in our place, paying our debt which was so great that no one is capable of paying. Jesus took our sin upon himself, taking our place on that cross so that we can take his place before God the Father, forgiven, saved, and in possession of the gift of eternal life. A life that knows no end and which we can never lose.

Have you put your faith in Christ Jesus as your Savior? Have you recognized your inability to atone for your sins and thus sought God's forgiveness by placing your eternal destiny into the capable hands of Jesus Christ? If not please contact us. We would love the opportunity to talk with you further about this most important of life's decisions.