

The Crucifixion of Christ – Part 2 of 2

Let me remind you once again today that it is a good life, living for the Lord. We want to continue our study in the life of Christ today by looking once again at the crucifixion. Last time, we discussed how that Christ was crucified on the cross and there were two thieves crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. For one of the robbers, his eyes were opened; he recognized Christ and he rebuked the other robber. Christ said to him, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." He accepted the Lord as His Savior.

We also looked at the fact that Jesus being mocked was blasphemy. Being spit upon was morally offensive. Being nailed to and hanging on the cross was torturous and causing great physical and mental anguish, but being abandoned by almighty God was the great cup of agony that I believe we read about in Matthew 27:46. He says, "*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani.*" That is to say, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" Of all the pain and anguish that Jesus went through, hanging on that cross for this lost and dying world, I believe possibly the worst thing that happened to Him on that cross was the fact that God the Father had turned His back on Him.

And why did God turn His back? It was because of sin. Second Corinthians 5:21 says, *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteous of God in him.* Christ was forsaken by God because of *our* sin.

In I Peter 2:24, it says, *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

Christ was forsaken. The Father turned His back on His only begotten Son.

Well, we also looked at some strange happenings that took place on that day, the mysterious darkness from the sixth hour about twelve noon to the ninth hour about 3:00 p.m. And there was darkness over all the earth according to Matthew 27:45, and we saw and heard about the rending of the veil. That's the veil of the temple. The veil was torn, divided into. It was torn apart from the top to the bottom according to Matthew 27:51. No human hand could have torn this veil. This was the veil that hung in the temple. Through the death of Christ, God was able to remove the barrier that stood between sinful men and a holy God. He made a way for all men, all women, all humans to come to Him. No more would there be a separation. The veil was torn, not to cause this to happen but because it had happened, because God had opened a new way, the veil was rent to show that there was no difference between Jew and Gentile, that people could now come into the holy of holies by the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today, God invites every believer, those who have trusted Him, to come before Him. The way has been opened by the mighty act of God. In Hebrews 4:16, it says, *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* The believer can now approach an almighty God, not on their own merits, but through the death and burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. By the death of our Savior, we who have trusted Him can now come to Him.

The unsaved person...maybe I'm talking to you today. Maybe you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior. You can have the same access, but

first you must come to Jesus, realizing that without Him, you are lost. You're on your way to a devil's hell to be forever separated from God. And if you will simply trust Jesus as your Savior, trust Him that He died for you on that cross and you can't save yourself, trust Him to come into your heart. Ask Him, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart. I receive you as my Lord and Savior today." If you'll do that, God will save you.

Well, there's something else that took place. Not only those mysterious happenings or those happenings that we've discussed, those strange happenings. There was a mighty earthquake. The earth shook and the rocks were split according to Matthew 27:51. Some years earlier there had been an earthquake on Mount Sinai according to Exodus chapter 19 and verse 18. There was an earthquake that day when Christ was crucified on Mount Calvary, according to Matthew 27:51. On both mountains God spoke and the earth shook. At Mount Sinai, God said, "Thou shalt do..." and He gave the Ten Commandments. And as a result of this, men were condemned because it is impossible for sinful men to keep God's holy law. And at Mount Calvary, Christ said, "It is finished." And as a result, God is able to justify guilty lawbreakers. John 19:30 says, *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

The message of Mount Sinai is this: Lawbreakers deserve to die. The message of Mount Calvary: "I have died for them. The penalty has been paid in full. It is finished."

There are other things that happened on that day, but let's look now at the significance of the crucifixion. Christ died. That's history. Christ died for me. That's salvation. The four Gospels are essentially history books given by inspiration of God. They tell us what happened. They tell us that Christ was

crucified and that He died. Now, the Gospels do not give nor go into great detail as to the significance of the death of Christ, but the epistles, the New Testament letters, are doctrinal books. They teach us the meaning and significance of the death of Christ. The significance of the crucifixion of Christ is seen in many Scriptures, many of the doctrinal books of the New Testament.

First Peter 3:18 says, *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*

First Corinthians 15:3 says, *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.*

Galatians 1:4 says, *Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.*

On and on it goes. Titus 2:14, Romans 14:9, Ephesians 5:2, Ephesians 5:25....many Scriptures... Hebrews 10:5-22. On and on the Scriptures go and tell us why Christ died for us.

Now the significance of the crucifixion of Christ is that He, the Son of God, God in the flesh, was born of a virgin. He was God in the flesh and His flesh died on the cross. His death was and is the only sacrifice made for sins of the whole world for mankind, and His death removed death's stinger. Bless God for that. First Corinthians 15:55 says, *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

And may we say with Paul the apostle in Galatians 2:20, *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

And Galatians 6:14 says, *But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*

May we as the saved people of this world, people who have trusted Jesus Christ, not think of ourselves more highly than we should, but may we dedicate ourselves to our Lord and Savior who gave Himself for us, a propitiation, a substitute for us on the cross of Calvary. He tasted death for us that we would not have to taste the awful, forbearing, foreboding separation from God that He tasted on that cross. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" We don't have to go through that. We who have trusted Him need to live for Him today and tell others about the saving grace that comes only through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He became sin for us. He who knew no sin...that's Jesus...became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. We can approach a holy God because of the death of our Lord and Savior. He became our sacrifice. He shed His blood on the cross of Calvary.

If you've never trusted Him today, why not bow your head where you are and receive Him as your Lord today. Ask Him to come into your heart. He'll save you right where you are. Bow your heart. "Lord Jesus, I know I can't save myself. I place myself with You. I have only one hope and that is in You to go to Heaven. Please forgive me of my sin. Come into my heart so I can see You one day, the Savior who gave His life for me." Now, you don't have to say those exact words. Say what's in your heart. Just ask Him to save you, and He'll save you today.

And Christian, if you're not living for Him, you need to be living for Him now. Don't put it off till tomorrow. Ask Him. "Lord Jesus, help me to be the witness that I need to be for you.

Help me to proclaim the Gospel. You are the Gospel, Lord, the Good News that You died, were buried, and You were resurrected on that third day, that all this world, this sinful world, mankind... could go to Heaven one day and be with you.

Now, Christian, if you're not working for him today, you need to ask Him to help you. You need to say, "Lord, forgive me. Lord, I know I'm saved, but I'm not serving You right now, and I want to do that. Lord, help me to serve You as I should be doing. Forgive me for the past and help me to serve You. Starting today, I want to serve You."

And, Christian, if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. That's to the Christian. First John has written, *My little children...* that's to us. When we mess up, God says He wants to fix us up. And if we confess that sin, He's faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Ask Him to forgive you today and start serving Him from this point on.

Well, may the Lord bless you richly for listening to the program today. And next time, we'll be looking at the resurrected Savior. He was crucified, but, bless God, He came out of the grave. He was resurrected. And just as He was resurrected, we too will be resurrected one day.

Let me invite you to look at our Website, www.LRWM.org. On the Website, you can download a transcript of this program and other programs of "It's a Good Life." Or you can write to me, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731, and I'll be glad to send you a written transcript. Well, may the Lord bless you richly is my prayer. Until the next time, it is a good life.