

THE MESSAGE FROM THE CRUCIFIXION

John 19:14-30

There is one event that is central to all Christianity and all Christendom. Without it, there is no way for mankind to have a relationship with the God of the universe. Without it man is banished forever from the God who created him. It is the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. There is absolutely no way to have Christianity apart from Christ, and there is no way to have Christ apart from His crucifixion for mankind. It has been wisely said, “explain the cross and you will lose your mind, explain away the cross and you will lose your soul.” Yet, in the crucifixion of Christ there are sobering messages for all mankind and for all time.

1. IT REVEALS A SIN RAVAGED SOCIETY.

When you look at the backdrop of the cross, you will find a false disciple...Judas betraying the Lord Jesus Christ. You will find high priests that denounce Jesus and turn him over to Pilate for the purpose of execution. You find Pilate presenting the innocent life of Jesus to the people as to what they desire to be done with Jesus. And you hear a mob of people crying “crucify him”, crucify him”. It was a sin ravaged society.

Rather than allow Jesus the innocent, Son of God go free...the people they desired a criminal to once again walk their streets. One day, people are singing the praises of Jesus shouting “Hosanna” and then in just a short time they are crying “crucify him”. The sinless, guiltless life of Jesus was taken before cruel leaders, and the only sinless life that ever lived on this earth was put on a cross between two thieves to die the death of a mere criminal. Even one of Jesus friend’s sold him out, and surrendered him over to the officials.

The slightest glance at the backdrop of the crucifixion reveals trickery, deceit, deception, betrayal, and the depths that mankind will go to before a holy God. The backdrop of the cross reveals a sin ravaged society. A wicked society where religion preempted righteousness, where godliness is mocked and wickedness is praised.

But the truth is, times have not changed. Mankind is still basically wicked. *Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

The truth is...Jesus knew why He was coming. He knew that He was walking into a wicked, sinful society. He knew He would walk into a society that was filled with sinners...because that is the lot of all mankind before God.

Romans 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

The fact is about your life, my life and the life of all mankind is this...all are wicked. Paul the apostle declared that “there is none (not a single living being) that doeth good...” No one can do good of himself because we are all sinners.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Jesus knew exactly why He came. He came deliberately and intentionally into a wicked, sin ravaged society with a heart to bring about His divine rescue.

The fact of our sin ravaged society is the sobering reminder that we are a people in need. All mankind was on a collision course with eternal death, apart from the cross and the crucifixion of Christ

Sadly, however, for those who are perishing, and refuse to place their trust in Christ, the cross is foolishness to them. *1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

2. IT REVEALS THAT ALL SIN & SINNERS MUST BE EXECUTED BEFORE THE SIGHT OF GOD. (Rom. 3:23)

The cross and the crucifixion are the vivid display of how God must respond to all sin and all sinners. When Jesus became sin for man...God executed Him. Listen to the very words of Jesus as He was dying on the cross. *Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me*

When Jesus Christ became sin for mankind, God had to turn away from His one and only Son, revealing how He responds to sin and sinners. When Jesus became sin for us, God executed Him...revealing the sobering and holy truth that all sin, and all sinners must be dealt with before a Holy God.

*Ezekiel 18:20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die....*The rich soul that sinneth...must die. The popular soul that sinneth...must die. The religious soul that sinneth...must die. The aristocratic soul that sinneth...must die. The intelligent soul that sinneth...must die. The religious soul that sinneth...must die.

There is not a soul that has lived or does live but what there is the reality of sin in their lives. God declares that soul that sinneth...must die.

If you are without Christ in your life...take a look at the cross...and God reveals what will happen to you one day...you will be eternally banished from the presence of God. The crucifixion was God's revealing truth of how He deals with sin. If you refuse the shed blood payment of Jesus Christ for your sins...you will be eternally doomed.

The cross was not the doing of man, but ultimately the doing of God. God's Word declares about Jesus, *John 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.*

Take a glance in the last book of the Bible to all who have refused to accept Christ, and rejected His crucifixion and what must happen to them...and if you are one of them...this will happen to you. *Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

God declares that there will come a day, when there will be an eternal banishment of all that have chosen to reject His payment of sins by the cross. Make no mistakes about it, God will do exactly and precisely what He says.

3. IT REVEALS THAT GOD HAS A PLAN TO RESCUE MANKIND FROM SIN.

In the crucifixion of Christ is the divine rescue plan from God for all men who will believe and place their faith in Christ. The wonderful truth of God, is the fact that He has “the plan” whereby mankind can be rescued from his sin. *2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

In the crucifixion of Christ is the genius and divine plan of God to bring about a rescue for us who are sinners. The plan of God involved “allowing His one and Only Son to become sin for all man”. God allowed Jesus Christ to become the substitute for every sinful, wicked man that every lived.

The cross is the reminder that we deserve to die a cruel wicked death...and that death ought to be eternal, but God chose to place all the sin of all the world on the body and person of Jesus. Jesus didn't simply die for sin, Jesus became sin. Jesus became the totality of sin. He became all sin for all man. Since one man brought sin into the world, God's son, became all of sin for all time, and God poured out His wrath on him, in order that he would not have to pour out his wrath on you.

Let we glamorize the cross...it was the revelation of God's wrath on all sin. It was the place where all sin for all time was executed to those who believe. It is the place where Jesus Christ died once for sin.

4. IT REVEALS THAT ONLY GOD CAN RESCUE MAN.

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Why would God allow His one and only Son to come into the world? Why would God not provide something less than the life blood of His Son? Because the truth of Scripture and the divine truth of God, is that only God can provide the proper sacrifice for sin...and that sacrifice had to be perfect.

Only the pure, perfect blood of Jesus Christ was the proper sacrifice before Holy God. Reform cannot bring about our rescue from sin. Religion cannot rescue us from sin. It requires the precious blood of Jesus Christ. *1 Peter 1:18-19 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; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

You cannot buy your way to heaven, serve your way to heaven, give your way to heaven. It comes by faith I Christ alone!

5. IT REVEALS THAT GOD LOVES MAN IN IRREGARD-LESS OF THE DEGREE OF HIS SIN.

Lest we think the cross was an accident, the Bible makes it clear that Jesus Christ from God's vantage point was slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

The cross and the crucifixion of Christ, reveals the depth of love that God has for mankind. God could have remained God, and given up on mankind and started afresh, if He had desired. Yet, in God's divine providence, He desired to reveal to all mankind, His love and His wonderful rescue from death through the cross. God revealed that to the life of Paul. Paul moved from death to life when He placed His faith in Christ.

Irregardless of the degree of your sin, God loves you. The thief on the cross discovered the love of God and Christ as he was dying for a capital offense.

Luke 23:42-43 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

It didn't matter what this man had done...and was now dying for. The shed blood of Christ was powerful enough to save him from his sins, and it is powerful enough to rescue any person from their sins, if they will simply believe. This dying criminal would find after this life was over that he would awaken to experience God's best in heaven...not because he deserved it, but because God's nature is love and to give the very best...a relationship with Him, if we will simply BELIEVE IN HIM.