

## Why Did Jesus Die?

Johnny Ramsey (deceased)

Under this heading we shall discuss those forces that contributed to His death. We will see *why* such a tragedy occurred. It was a combination of:

1) *The love of God.* "God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

2) *The weakness of man.* The betrayal by Judas, the denial by Peter, the rejection of Jesus by the Jewish nation – all of these things brought about the death of our Lord.

3) *The cowardice of Pilate.* Even though he could find no fault with the man of Nazareth, Pilate condemned Him to death. Popularity meant more to him than principle.

4) *The humility of Jesus.* The Son of God "humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8). In Gethsemane He said humbly: "Thy will be done."

5) *Our desperate need of salvation.* Certainly the major reason for Calvary was the despicable condition of mankind. "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). There was no hope apart from Christ Jesus. He gave His life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). The Hebrew writer tells us that Christ "tasted of death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9). A very grateful apostle Paul stated that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15).

### **PATHOLOGICAL PHASES OF DEATH BY CRUCIFIXION**

1. The nails, being driven through the hands and feet which are full of nerves and tendons and yet at a distance from the heart, create the most exquisite anguish.
2. The unnatural position of the body plus the violent tension would cause a painful sensation from the slightest motion.
3. The exposure of so many wounds and lacerations would bring on inflammation. Gangrene could result. Every movement would increase suffering.
4. In the distended parts of the body, more blood flows through the arteries than can be adequately carried back into the veins: therefore, too much blood finds its way from the aorta into the head and stomach, and the blood vessels in the head become pressed and swollen. Hence, the general obstruction of circulation which would ensue would cause an intense excitement, exertion, and anxiety more intolerable than death itself.
5. The misery of gradually increasing and lingering anguish.
6. A burning and raging thirst.

- Barnes Bible Charts -

*The cross of Christ reveals man's sin at its worst and God's love at its best.*

### *News & Notes*

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m. only and Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.** The Covid-19 restrictions apply (masks & distancing).

**PANTRY:** Baked beans.

**MOVED:** Due to some health issues, Sarah Miller has been temporarily moved to **Calcutta Health Care (Room 6)**.

**SICK & SHUT-IN: AT HOME:** Randy Waite, Shirley Beagle, Randy Beagle, Charlie & Barb Delong, David McCoy, Jim Hadley, Marlene Evans, Russell Martin, Emma Rine, Alex Harless, Mary Johnson (sister of Lois Hissom), Rick Beck, Josh Morrison, 428 Burnside Rd., Canonsburg, PA 15317. **FOX:** Doris Dunham. **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore (Room 210). **IN TENNESSEE:** Steve Higginbotham. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

**GRIEF & LOSS WORKSHOP SERIES: April 25-28 at St. Clair Ave. Church of Christ.** Dean Miller of Villa Rica, GA will conduct this series. Details on the back of our April calendar and posted on the bulletin board.

### **GOSPEL MEETINGS**

Weirton Heights-----April 11-16 ----- Terry Jones

Sunday: 9:30, 10:30 a.m.; 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Fri.: 7:00 p.m.

Hillview Terr., Moundsville ----- April 18-23 ----- Emanuel Daugherty

Sunday: 9:45, 10:40 a.m.; 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Fri.: 7:00 p.m.

### **A Light In the Dark**

The Bible furnishes us with all we need to be saved, to live as we ought, and to die prepared for eternity. It is, has, and always will be the inspired word of God, man's only source of divine wisdom (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It offers the solution to every problem: it provides the way to overcome every obstacle, and it shines in a world of darkness leading man to God (Psalm 119:105).

Lives are ruined and souls are lost when it is not followed. He who dies in disobedience to the word of God will be judged by that same word, and will be lost eternally (John 12:48). It is no wonder Paul wrote: "Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). We cannot go wrong when the word of God is the source for all that we say, do, and think. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11).

It is the only standard of truth. What we teach, how we worship, and how we live are all determined by the word. It is a light in the darkness pointing man to Jesus Christ.

Though it is the only absolute standard of truth, it is often discarded for other things. Traditions, feelings, prejudice, and indifference often blind man to the true light of God's word. We must make certain that our faith is based upon the Bible. Nothing else will do. Church creeds and papal edicts do not lead to Heaven. What are you following?

- Author Unknown (via Camden Avenue Church of Christ, Parkersburg, WV)