

## From the Cross to the Confession

Text: John 19:17; John 20:25-28; Romans 4:23-25

For over two thousand years, preachers of the Gospel have delivered the message of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Methods may change, but the message remains the same. Paul said in I Corinthians 2:2, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

To deny the resurrection of our crucified Lord is to place one's soul in jeopardy. Romans 10:9: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

### I. THE HYSSOP

John 19:28-30

Matthew 27:34: "They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink."

John 19:29, 30a: "Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus had therefore received the vinegar...."

Exodus 12:22, 23: "And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that *is* in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you."

Psalms 51:7: "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

Picture, if you will, the blood dripping from the lintel and two side posts. As the blood frames the door, we know that on this original Passover night, no death angel would enter this dwelling to take the life of the firstborn son. Advance with me now a little over 1,500 years later on a lonely hill just outside Jerusalem and there we see our Lord, the Creator dying for His creation. We see just before the nails are driven into our Lord's hands and feet, He is offered the vinegar mingled with gall, a type of anesthesia that would deaden the pain (to a degree) and fog the mind. Jesus, however, would have none of this. He was going to experience the full pain with a clear mind. Then as the cross was coming to an end, he cried, "I thirst." And now they offer Him the vinegar only. And He took a drink. The Bible says it was offered on a branch of hyssop. How symbolical! For the blood from the original Passover lambs was placed protectively over and around the door of the home. And now we see the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world offered the bitter drink on the same humble hyssop. "...For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us" (I Corinthians 5:7b). This is what David in his penitent prayer was asking God to do, i.e., purge or clean him of his sin by the

hyssop that holds the blood. For those of us that have been saved by God's grace, we can see this and say, thank God! the death angel will pass over us, because of the blood that Jesus shed for our sins on Calvary.

## II. THE MAJESTY

John 19:30: "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."

Our Lord did not die a helpless death of a victim, but rather a victorious conqueror who has just given the victor's cry. "It is finished," is translated from one Greek word: *tetelestai*. It is important to know that this verb is in the perfect tense in Greek, because the perfect tense speaks of an action that has been completed in the past with results continuing into the present. It's different from the past tense, which looks back to an event and says, "This happened." The perfect tense adds the idea that "This happened and it is still in effect today."

Jesus is King. He rules even over death. John 10:17b, 18a: "...I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 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...." This majesty of the King of Kings is reflective in the words, "...and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost" (John 19:30b). It was not an out-of-control dropping; it was a premeditated bowing of His royal head!

## III. THE PROPHECY

John 19:31-37

The soldiers broke the legs of the two thieves that were crucified with Jesus, but upon discovering that Jesus had died, they pierced the side of the Lord and the blood and water flowed out. Not one of Christ's bones was broken, thus fulfilling the Scriptures (John 19:36; Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20; Psalm 22:16, 17). This is also a great reminder that we who have believed in Jesus are saved and kept, even as the bones of Jesus were kept in tact. We, the bone of Christ's bone, Christ's bride, will forever be held fast (Genesis 2:23; John 17:12; John 18:9; Ephesians 5:30-32)!

Furthermore we see in the prophecy of Zechariah 12:10, that it is Jehovah Himself who died for us and who holds us fast!

## IV. THE IDENTITY

John 20:25-28

We witness the death of Christ as we read the Gospels. Then Joseph of Arimethaea and Nicodemus bury our Lord. Joseph provides the tomb and Nicodemus provides one hundred pounds of spices. Mary Magdalene is the first to the tomb and discovers the tomb is empty and Christ is gone. Peter and John run to the tomb to discover the same truth, yet are still baffled and return home, while Mary lingers. Then the risen Lord reveals Himself to Mary and gives her a commission to tell the others the good news. On that first Sunday evening, our Lord reveals Himself to the other disciples, but Thomas is absent. Thomas now has a hard time believing. We find Jesus specifically seeks out Thomas eight days later and challenges him to physically examine His wounds. Thomas gives

the strongest confession of the deity of Christ found in Holy Scripture. John 20:28: "And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God." Jesus is God! (Hebrews 1:6, 8).

In Romans 1:1 we read that this Gospel is the Gospel of God. In Romans 1:9 we see this Gospel is the Gospel of His Son. In Romans 1:16 we observe this Gospel is the Gospel of Christ. In Algebra we discover that things that are equal to the same things are equal to each other. You can substitute one for the other. Jesus is God!

The resurrection of Jesus was the dominant theme of Peter's message at Pentecost (Acts 2:22-36). It was also the message of Paul (Acts 17:30-34).

Conclusion:

Let us therefore identify with Christ: Romans 6: 1-11  
When Jesus is the Lord of my mind, I have the mind of Christ.  
When Jesus is the Lord of my tongue, I speak the words of Christ.  
When Jesus is the Lord of my ears, I hear the voice of Christ.  
When Jesus is the Lord of my feet, I walk in the way of Christ.  
When Jesus is the Lord of my hands, I do the work of Christ.  
When Jesus is the Lord of my heart, I share the love of Christ.  
When Jesus is the Lord of my eyes, I see the glory of Christ.

-Pastor Pope-