

## We Preach Christ Crucified

Text: I Corinthians 1:18-24; Galatians 6:14

The greatest motivation in my ministry has come from observing and studying the life of our Lord Jesus Christ while He was on this earth and specifically, His death on the cross for our sins. So on this anniversary Sunday, I want to give God glory and exalt Christ, the only One worthy of our praise for the blessings on fifty-one years as a preacher and forty years as pastor of Christchurch Baptist Fellowship, the only church that I have pastored. Therefore, I have chosen to examine once again the cross of Christ, the meaning and subsequent motivation of why we minister.

### 1. THE DANGER OF DISTANCE

Matthew 26:58: "But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end." All four gospels point out that Peter followed Jesus from afar. Anytime we keep our distance from Christ and His cross, we are in jeopardy of losing our heart for service. Thank God, he recovered but not without heartbreak first.

### 2. THE STATEMENTS OF SOVEREIGNTY

John 18:33, 36, 37: "Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?...Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice."

John 10:17,18: "Therefore doth my Father love me, because 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 commandment have I received of my Father."

John 19:10b, 11: "...knowest thou not that I (Pilate) have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against Me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered Me unto thee hath the greater sin."

### 3. THE WORLD CHRISTENS THEIR KING

Mark 14:65: "And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

Matt. 27:27-30: "Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of *soldiers*. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put *it* upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed

the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.”

#### 4. THE PLEA FOR MERCY IS PRAYED

Luke 23:34: “Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.”

Christ was not letting anyone off the hook who is unwilling to repent, but He understands that those who cried out for His crucifixion and inflicted the very act of crucifixion had no idea of the scope of their wrongdoing.

Acts 13:27, 28: “For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him. And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain.”

I Corinthians 2:8: “Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

#### 5. THE PRAYER FOR MERCY IS ACCEPTED

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.”

(A) This shows us that life goes on after death.

(B) This means the survival of the personality.

(C) This guarantees abiding fellowship.

(D) This assures us of a Heavenly home.

(E) This gives the assurance of immediate access to Heaven.

#### 6. THE LOVING PROVISION PROVIDED

John 19:26, 27: “When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.”

#### 7. THE DECLARATION IN THE DARKNESS

Matthew 27:45: “Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.”

Amos 8:9: “And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day.”

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?”

Because Christ experienced this, He was able to say to Mary in John 20:17b, “...I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.” And Thomas was able to say in John 20:28, “...My Lord and my God.”

#### 8. THE DEDICATION TO THE FULFILMENT OF SCRIPTURE

John 19:28: "After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst."

Psalm 69:21: "They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

Luke 12:50: "But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!"

#### 9. THE MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

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."

Christ was not declaring the finishing of His life, but rather the finishing of the work of redemption.

Hebrews 9:12-15

#### 10. THE ENTRANCE WITHIN THE VEIL

Luke 23:46: "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."

Luke 23:45: "And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst."

Matthew 27:51: "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;"

Leviticus 16:15: "Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that *is* for the people, and bring his blood within the veil, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat."

Hebrews 6:19-20 declares we have in Jesus the anchor within the veil!  
Hebrews 10:19, 20; Romans 3:25; I John 2:2; I John 4:10.

-Pastor Pope-