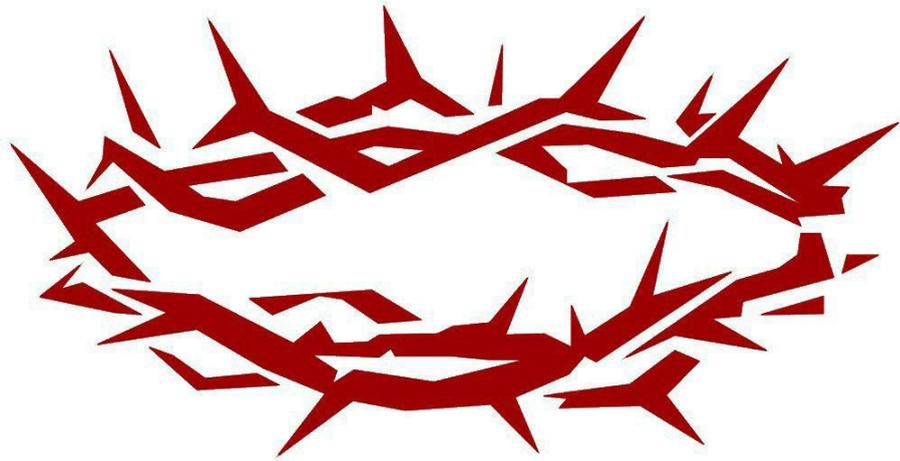


Going Deeper

THE MEANING



of

GALATIANS 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and yet I am still alive. The life I live now, I live in the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for I me.



Discipleship
Course

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

In **PHILIPPIANS 3:10** Paul says that his goal is **a. to KNOW CHRIST; b. to KNOW THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION; and c. TO SHARE IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS, BECOMING LIKE HIM IN HIS DEATH.**

Brennan Manning in *THE SIGNATURE OF JESUS On The Pages Of Our Lives* comments:

*“Why don’t we see what an old lawyer said of John Vianney: ‘An extraordinary thing happened to me today. I saw Christ in a man.’ Why are the fire and the spirit of Peter and Paul so conspicuously absent from our pallid existence? Perhaps it is because **so few of us have undertaken the journey of faith across the chasm between KNOWLEDGE and EXPERIENCE. We prefer to READ THE ROAD MAP rather than to VISIT THE PLACE.**”*

THREE OPTIONS As we come to look at **GALATIANS 2:20** together, it seems there are 3 options:

A. WE COULD LOOK AT WHAT OTHERS HAVE WRITTEN & SAID ABOUT THIS VERSE

I suspect most of us have spent a fair amount of time over the years looking at the **TOURIST GUIDE** or **ROAD MAP** without actually **VISITING THE PLACES.**

Threepoint sermons like **NOT MY WAY, BUT HIS WAY - NOT DO, BUT DONE - NOT LEAD, BUT LED**

In the process we have often ‘sanitized’ the message of the Cross and given the impression we are talking about **Virtual Reality** - what Bonhoeffer calls **CHEAP GRACE** - as opposed to **THE REAL THING - The Call to Come & Die With Christ.**

Or,

B. WE COULD GO ROUND THE GROUP ASKING EACH PERSON WHAT THE VERSE MEANS TO HIM PERSONALLY

It is certainly an attractive idea. **The danger is that it reduces Scripture to our experiences.**

Or,

C. WE CAN WALK FORWARD TO THE CHASM OF FAITH and LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD and SCRIPTURE proceed *from* MERELY READING THE MAP *to* ACTUALLY VISITING THE PLACES JESUS VISITED and experience what it means to share Christ’s suffering, based not just on our particular experiences but also on Scripture.

I was reminded of a **statement by Atticus Finch**, the old lawyer in **TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD** who said:

“You’ll never understand a man ‘til you stand In his shoes & look at the world through his eyes.

If we really want to know what it means to be crucified with Christ, we need to

STAND IN JESUS’ SHOES & LOOK AT THE WORLD THROUGH HIS YES

And I felt the **LORD** suggest **FOUR PLACES FOR US TO VISIT**, rather than just **READ ABOUT**, in an attempt to stand in Jesus’ shoes and try to look at the world through His eyes.

A. GETHSEMANE B. GABBATHA C. GOLGOTHA D. THE GARDEN TOMB

We begin in **GETHSEMANE** because if we want to understand the journey Christ took to the Cross, we need to start with his **AGONY IN THE GARDEN.**

A. GETHSEMANE: THE PLACE OF CRUSHING



Some people give the impression they think that because Jesus was the Son of God, he had no problem with going to the Cross, because he knew the Father would save him ultimately and so it was a slam dunk. That's not what you find if you read the Gospel accounts carefully. *Gethsemane* in the Mount of Olives is from Hebrew *Gat shamin*= oil press/crusher. [NOTE: John's Gospel differs from the Three Synoptics in simply saying Jesus and the disciples crossed the Kidron valley and went into a garden there.]

MATTHEW 26:36-46 NIV

vv36-39 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, ***"Sit here while I go over there and pray."*** He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then ***he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."***

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, ***"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."***

NOTE: LUKE adds: An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

vv40-46 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. ***"Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?"*** he asked Peter. ***"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."***

He went away a second time and prayed,

"My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

[NOTE: MARK and LUKE both add: *Everything is possible for You.*]

When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

QUESTIONS:

Q1 HOW do you think Jesus is FEELING at this moment? How do we know?

A. Jesus is experiencing the TERRIFYING REALITY OF THE DEATH he is about to undergo. It is so terrible, Dr Luke writes, that he sweated blood – a medical condition called *haematidrosis*, which is highly associated with people who are terrified. This is the reality of his situation.

cf Paul says in **2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-10** ⁸ We want you to know, Christian brothers, of the trouble we had in Asia Minor. The **burden was so heavy we did not have the strength to keep going. At times we did not think we could survive.** ⁹ **We thought we would die.** This happened so that we would **not put our trust in ourselves, but in God Who raises the dead.** ¹⁰ Yes, God kept us from what looked like sure death and He is keeping us. As we trust Him, He will keep us in the future. [New Life Version]

Q2 WHY does Jesus take just Peter, James and John along with him?

A. They are his Personal Support group to give him prayer backup.

Q3 HOW DOES JESUS PRAY? WHAT DOES HE SAY? WHY?

Jesus prays: *Father, if it is possible, take this Cup of your Wrath from me.*

Nevertheless, Father, NOT MY WILL BUT YOUR WILL BE DONE.

In **JOHN 12:27-33** we read Jesus saying:

²⁷ *"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'?*

No, for this is the very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ *Father, glorify your name!"*

Then a voice came from heaven, *"I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."*

³¹ *Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the Prince of This World will be driven out.*

³² *And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."*

³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Q4 WHAT IS THE MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR JESUS? A. THE CRISIS OF BELIEF

Lesson #1: The Major Challenge: To Go God's Way vs My Way

The writer of **HEBREWS 5:8** says **Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered. Even though Jesus was the Son of God, he still had a choice - to obey his heavenly Father or to do his own thing.**

Q How do we know that?

A From the prayer Jesus is reported to have prayed, *not once but three times.*

NOTE: Both MARK and LUKE report that Jesus said: ***Everything is possible for You, Father.***

Jesus **CHOSE TO GO GOD'S WAY** rather than **HIS OWN WAY.**

In **JOHN 14:30-31** Jesus says to the disciples: *"I will not say much more to you, for the Prince of this World (ie satan) is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me."*

In other words, Jesus was saying that **his death would demonstrate his LOVE for his heavenly Father and OBEDIENCE to what God the Father had told him to do - namely, to go the Cross.**

JESUS CHOSE TO GO THE WAY OF THE CROSS IN SPITE OF KNOWING THE AGONY AHEAD

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **HEBREWS 12:2**

Q5 How do you think Jesus feels when he finds the three disciples asleep?

A Incredibly alone and abandoned by even his closest friends

Jesus asks his three closest friends to keep watch and to pray for him, while he goes a short distance away and talks to Father God about it. He asks his friends to give him prayer support **at this critical time.**

And at the very point when he needs them most, his closest friends let him down by not even praying for him.

Q Have you ever been abandoned by someone really close to you? How does it feel?

Lesson #2: The Loneliness of Dying - It's Between Just You and God

When you are approaching death, not even friends can take the place of God

- it is just between you and God.

Q6 DID GOD THE FATHER ANSWER THE PRAYERS OF GOD THE SON?

Some writers (eg Pete Greig GOD ON MUTE pages 15-17) seem to suggest that he didn't. But **HEBREWS 5:7** says **God heard Jesus' prayers because of his submission to God's will.**

In 2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10 Pauls' Prayer Asking God for Healing

In order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

LESSON #3 GOD ALWAYS HEARS OUR PRAYERS & ANSWERS THEM - But Not Necessarily In The Way We Want

John Newton hymn entitled: *Prayer Answered By Crosses*

THE KEY: Pray: *Your Kingdom-rule come and Your will be done in this situation*

Q7 Read JOHN Chapter 12 verses 23-28

Jesus replied, ***"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.***

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be.

My Father will honour the one who serves me.

"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!"

Q8 What does Jesus mean by "losing your life to find it" ?

LESSON #4 DYING TO LIVE: He DIED FOR US SO WE CAN LIVE FOR HIM

Jim Elliot *He is no fool who loses what he cannot keep to gain what he can never lose.*

Q9 Henry Blackaby in *Experiencing God: Knowing & Doing The Will Of God* says: *Whenever God invites a person to join him in what he is doing, it always has God-sized dimensions and creates a **Crisis of Belief** which **forces the person to CHOOSE** whether to **GO GOD'S WAY** or **THEIR OWN WAY**. We experience God when we are obedient and choose to go His Way.*

Q10 Have you ever been in God's 'Crusher' and experienced *The Crisis of Belief* with God challenging you with the choice to GO GOD'S WAY rather than YOUR OWN WAY? HOW DID IT FEEL?

OVERALL POINTS

- 1 LEARNING OBEDIENCE INVOLVES LETTING GO OF MY NEED TO BE IN CONTROL & TRUSTING GOD, NO MATTER WHAT.**
Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and don't lean on your own understanding
- 2 Jesus prayed: NOT MY WILL, FATHER, BUT YOUR WILL BE DONE.**
He chose to TRUST & OBEY God.
Blackaby points out that we experience God when I adjust my will to go God's way rather than my own way.
- 3 PRAY: "Your kingdom-rule come, Father, and Your will be done in this situation here on earth as it is in heaven."**

B. GABBATHA: The Place of Injustice, Rejection, Mockery & Torture



Gabbatha - The Stone Pavement in Jerusalem where Jesus was tried Image may be copyright

JOHN 18:23-40 JESUS BEFORE PILATE - THE JEWS ACCUSE JESUS OF BLASPHEMY (LUKE 23:1-25)

THE JEWISH LEADERS TOOK JESUS FROM CAIAPHAS TO THE PALACE OF THE ROMAN GOVERNOR.

By now it was early morning, and **TO AVOID CEREMONIAL UNCLEANNESS THEY DID NOT ENTER THE PALACE,** because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. What **HYPOCRISY!**

So, Pilate came out to them and asked,

Q. "WHAT CHARGES ARE YOU BRINGING AGAINST THIS MAN?"

A. The Jews replied: *"If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."*

Pilate said, **"TAKE HIM YOURSELVES AND JUDGE HIM BY YOUR OWN LAW."**

They objected. **"BUT WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO EXECUTE ANYONE,"** thereby betraying their real motive!

This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

MATTHEW 16:21; MARK 8:31-38; LUKE 18:31-33 (for the third time)

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, Q "ARE YOU THE KING OF THE JEWS?"

"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, **"or did others talk to you about me?"**

"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. **"Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me.**

Q WHAT IS IT YOU HAVE DONE?"

A. Jesus said, "MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"YOU ARE A KING, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, **"YOU SAY THAT I AM A KING. THE REASON I WAS BORN AND CAME INTO THE WORLD IS TO TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH. EVERYONE ON THE SIDE OF TRUTH LISTENS TO ME."**

Q WHAT IS TRUTH?" retorted Pilate, speaking in Latin **QUID EST VERITAS?** Jesus made no reply. Amazingly, an anagram of Pilate's question is **EST VIR QUI ADEST** which means **IT IS THE MAN (STANDING) HERE!**

PILATE WENT OUT AGAIN TO THE JEWS gathered there and said, **"I FIND NO BASIS FOR A CHARGE AGAINST HIM. But it is your CUSTOM FOR ME TO RELEASE TO YOU ONE PRISONER AT THE TIME OF THE PASSOVER.**

Q DO YOU WANT ME TO RELEASE 'THE KING OF THE JEWS'?"

They shouted back, **"NO, NO! NOT HIM! GIVE US BARABBAS!"** Now Barabbas **WAS A TERRORIST.**

Q. HOW IS JESUS FEELING AT THIS POINT? Scripture tells us.....**A ISAIAH 50:5-10 I'M NOT TRYING TO DEFEND MYSELF BUT AM TRUSTING MY FATHER**

The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious; I have not turned away.

I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced.

Therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.

If you're in the dark and don't know what to do, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on God.

1 PETER 2:21-24 CHRIST'S EXAMPLE OF PATIENT ENDURANCE & REFUSAL TO RETALIATE

If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

To this you were called, because **Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, to follow in his footsteps.**

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats.

Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross,

so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

Q HOW ARE YOU FEELING AT THIS POINT?**A. PHYSICALLY EXHAUSTED AFTER SEVERAL HOURS OF INTERROGATION BY CAIAPHAS**

in an illegal trial at night with false witnesses that breaks all the rules of the Law of Moses they are claiming to uphold.

B. THE PAIN OF THE INJUSTICE OF THE WHOLE THING:**Ten Reasons Why The Trial Of Jesus By The Sanhedrin Was Illegal**

- 1 **Jesus' arrest was illegal:** the chief priests were in the arrest party as well as being his judges!
2. **It was a private night proceeding not allowed by the Law of Moses;** only daylight
3. **The Sanhedrin Illegally Proceeded To Hold Its Trial Of Jesus BEFORE SUNRISE with no witnesses**
4. **The Sanhedrin Was Illegally Convened To Try A Capital Offence On A Day Before An Annual Sabbath (Holy Day)** ie a Friday before a Sabbath
5. **It Was Illegal because for capital offences, the trial could not be concluded the same day.**
6. **The indictments against Jesus were false or unproven.**
7. **The condemnation of Jesus by part of the Sanhedrin was illegal because some of those who might have voted against His condemnation (Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus) were not present.**
8. **The sentence against Jesus was pronounced in a place forbidden by law – a house not a court**
9. **Most Sanhedrin members themselves were legally disqualified to try Jesus because related**
10. **They illegally switched the charges before Pilate against Jesus from blasphemy to treason.**

C. THE PAIN OF REJECTION BY THE VERY PEOPLE HE HAD COME TO SAVE JOHN 1:10-13

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Q Have you ever felt the pain of REJECTION by those you love or you have tried to help?**E. PILATE KNEW JESUS WAS INNOCENT & YET WAS UNWILLING TO UPHOLD TRUTH & LAW**

Jesus said in JOHN 14:6 I am The Way, TRUTH, and The Life so it is highly ironic that an anagram of QUID EST VERITAS is EST VIR QUI ADEST meaning IT IS THE MAN WHO IS (STANDING) HERE.

THE TRUTH was staring Pilate in the face.

PILATE TRIES TO DO EVERYTHING HE COULD TO AVOID DOING WHAT HE KNEW WAS WRONG.

a. Pilate tries to avoid a confrontation with the Jews **by offering to release Jesus** as part of a tradition at Passover. **b.** Pilate again **tries to avoid angering the crowd by ORDERING JESUS TO BE SCOURGED.**

WATCH THE SCENE OF THE SCOURGING from *The Passion of the Christ*

STANDING IN JESUS' SHOES & SEEING THROUGH JESUS' EYES Part 2

JOHN 19:1-16 THE SCOURGING, THE MOCKERY, TORTURE & UNJUST CONVICTION FOR TREASON

A. THE SCOURGING, TORTURE & MOCKERY BY THE SOLDIERS Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, *"Hail, king of the Jews!"* And they slapped him in the face. **MATTHEW 27:27-31; MARK 15:16-20** both mention the soldiers **spitting and bowing down in mockery**

This act of scourging a condemned person was designed to humiliate and torture him before finally executing him by crucifixion. **The scourging was carried out by two Roman soldiers armed with a flagrum - a whip with a wooden handle and leather straps, into which were inserted bits of bone or metal designed to rip the victim's back to pieces to increase the pain.** Jesus was tied to a whipping post like the scene from *The Passion of the Christ*.

B. ECCE HOMO! I FIND NO BASIS FOR A CHARGE

Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there,

"Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.

When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them,

"HERE'S YOUR MAN" (ECCE HOMO!)

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, *"Crucify! Crucify!"*

But Pilate answered, *"You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."*

C. THE JEWISH LEADERS BRING THE CHARGE OF BLASPHEMY as THE BASIS FOR JESUS' EXECUTION

"We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace.

"Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but **Jesus gave him no answer.**

"Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. *"Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"*

Jesus answered, *"You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.*

Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

D. FROM THEN ON, PILATE TRIED TO SET JESUS FREE, BUT THE JEWISH LEADERS accuse Jesus of TREASON

"If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on **THE JUDGE'S SEAT (BEMA)** at a place known as **THE STONE PAVEMENT** (Greek **LITHOSTRATOS**; Aramaic **GABBATHA**). It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

E. ECCE REX! *"Here is your king,"* Pilate said. [Jesus seated on the *Bema* as King of the Jews in mockery?] But they shouted, ***"Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"***

Q. "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. *"We have no king but Caesar,"* the chief priests answered.

FACING OUR FEARS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE/TORTURE MOCKERY & DEGRADATION

Q How do you respond to the **FEAR** of being tortured for Christ?

[NOTE: Richard Wurmbrand on Do Not Fear x 366 in The Bible - one for every day inc. Leap Year]

Q How did Jesus manage to cope with the horrendous torture he underwent?

A.1 PETER 2:21-23 Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²² 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' ²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, **he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.**

Q How might we be able to withstand a similar horror?

A. MATTHEW 10:19 When they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it.

At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

LUKE 12:11-12 When they drag you into their meeting places, or into police courts and before judges, don't worry about defending yourselves—what you'll say or how you'll say it. The right words will be there. The Holy Spirit will give you the right words when the time comes. (MSG)

THE TESTIMONY OF TWO IRANIAN WOMEN HELD CAPTIVE IN EVIN PRISON

Captive in Iran: A Remarkable True Story of Hope and Triumph amid the Horror of Tehran's Brutal Evin Prison by Maryam Rostampour & Marziyeh Amirizadeh

They were terrified but experienced strength through a powerful experience of the Holy Spirit.

ROMANS 8:15-17

¹⁵The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

THE ANSWER TO MY FEAR OF BEING ABANDONED IS TO ABANDON MYSELF TO GOD because "I have been crucified with Christ and yet I am still alive. But the life I now live, I live in the faith OF the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me."

C. GOLGOTHA: ON THE CROSS WHERE HE DIED FOR ME



Christ on the Cross Painting by Eugene Delacroix National Gallery, London

GALATIANS 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ and yet I am alive. But the life I live now I live in the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

HAVE YOU BEEN TO YOUR OWN FUNERAL?

*"There was a day when George Müller died, died to his opinions, preferences, tastes and will...died to the world, its approval and censure...died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends...and since then I have studied to show myself approved only to God." ~ George Mueller *The Secret of His Power in Prayer**
*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he can never lose!" Jim Elliot *Missionary to the Auca Indians**

Q EVER WONDERED HOW JESUS FELT AS HE WAS DYING ON THE CROSS?

We will never plumb the depths of agony he experienced as he felt the full fury of the Father's wrath at human sin and satanic evil. **But we can get a glimpse through an amazing psalm of David** written hundreds of years before crucifixion was introduced in Israel as one of the most barbaric form of execution ever devised by man. **IT IS SPECIAL BECAUSE JESUS QUOTES THE FIRST AND LAST LINES OF IT as he hangs helplessly gasping for each breath.** When you're dying, you don't waste words, so it's as if he was using shorthand to tell us the significance of what was happening - a significance not lost on many of the Jewish bystanders, who had learned the psalms by heart for their *barmitzvahs* and who must have wandered home that day, amazed to have seen the events described in it acted out before their very eyes.

PSALM 22 To be sung to the tune of *"The Doe* of the Morning#."* A Psalm of David.

* DOE cf SONG of SONGS 2:8-10 # MORNING STAR cf 2 PETER 1:19; REVELATION 2:28; 22:16

NB The *Complete Jewish Bible* translates the title: *"For the leader set to "Sunrise"*

A. AN ANGUISHED CRY OF DERELICTION vv 1-10

¹ **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?** (Strong # 5800 *azavtani* = forsake)

cf DEUTERONOMY 28:20 curses for *forsaking the LORD*

Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?

² **My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.**

³ **Yet you are the Holy One; enthroned on the praises of Israel.**

⁴ **In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.**

⁵ **To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**

⁶ **But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.** cf JOB 25:6

⁷ **All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.**

⁸ **"He trusts in the LORD,"** they say, **"let the LORD rescue him.**

Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

⁹ **Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.**

¹⁰ **From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.**

B. A PROPHETIC PICTURE OF CRUCIFIXION vv 11-21

¹¹ **Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.**

¹² **Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.**

= powerful foes

¹³ **Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me.**

¹⁴ **I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.**

My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me.

¹⁵ **My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.**

¹⁶ **Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.** *

¹⁷ **All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me.**

NB *Dogs* = Gentiles

¹⁸ **They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.**

¹⁹ **But you, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me.**

²⁰ **Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.**

²¹ **Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.**

* See ZECHARIAH 12:10; JOHN 19:37

C. A TRIUMPHANT SHOUT OF RESURRECTION vv 22-31

²² **I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you.**

²³ **You who fear the LORD, praise him!** All you descendants of Jacob, honour him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

²⁴ **For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.**

²⁵ **From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;**
before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise
him—may your hearts live forever!

²⁷ **All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,**

²⁸ **for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.**

²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust
will kneel before him — those who cannot keep themselves alive.

³⁰ **Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.**

³¹ **They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn:
He has done it! [Tetelestai=it is finished!] JOHN 19:30**

NOTE: Quite apart from the prophetic nature of the psalm, the description of what the sufferer is experiencing is so graphic it is almost as if the psalmist is standing there at Calvary recording every detail of what Jesus is feeling.

ISAIAH 53:3-5

³ He was **despised and rejected** by mankind, a **man of suffering**, and **familiar with pain**.

Like **one from whom people hide their faces** he was **despised**, and we **held him in low esteem**.

⁴ Surely he took up **our SICKNESS** and bore **our SUFFERING** yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was **pierced/TRAUMATIZED*** for our **transgressions**, he was **crushed** for our **iniquities**; *LXX the **punishment** that brought us **peace** was on him, and by his **wounds** we are **healed**.

Q1 HOW DO YOU FEEL AS YOU READ PSALM 22?

Abandoned *My God! My God!* Terrifying loss of relationship with my heavenly Father

Agony Excruciating physical agony

Helplessness & Trust in God *Into Your hands, Father, I commit my spirit* **PSALM**

31:5 Humiliation Mockery by all: *Come down off the Cross* **IF you're the Son of**

God Nakedness Apart from a loincloth

Vulnerability Totally vulnerable

Q2 HAVE YOU EVER DESPAIRED EVEN OF LIFE ITSELF? Paul had *Read: ACTS 14:19*

2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-9 **NOTE: ACTS 14:19** Paul stoned and left for dead at Lystra on his 1st Journey

⁸ We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia.

WE WERE UNDER GREAT PRESSURE, FAR BEYOND OUR ABILITY TO ENDURE, so that WE DESPAIRED OF LIFE ITSELF. ⁹ Indeed, **WE FELT WE HAD RECEIVED THE SENTENCE OF DEATH.** But this happened so that we might **RELY NOT ON OURSELVES BUT ON GOD, WHO RAISES THE DEAD.**

**Q Has God taken you to the point where you know that APART FROM HIM YOU CAN DO NOTHING?
Or do you still think you can manage OK in your own efforts?**

LUKE 22:31-33 *Simon! Simon! Satan has asked to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for your faith*
Peter: LORD, I'll even go to prison and die with you

THERE IS NO RESURRECTION WITHOUT A CRUCIFIXION: IT IS NOT DO, BUT DONE!

COLOSSIANS 3:3 You DIED and your life is hidden with Christ in God

- A. DEAD TO SIN, ALIVE TO GOD/RIGHTEOUSNESS (ROMANS 6:6)
- B. DEAD TO SELF - NOT MY WILL BUT HIS WILL IN TOTAL SURRENDER (GALATIANS 2:20)
- C. TO THE WORLD & THE WORLD TO ME (1 JOHN 2:15-17; GALATIANS 6:14)

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." Christ's righteousness has been IMPUTED & IMPARTED to us.

THE CROSS deals with SIN IN THREE DIRECTIONS JOHN 16:8-11

- A. GODWARD it SATISFIES God's demand for JUSTICE
- B. MANWARD it SUPPLIES God's GRACE and FORGIVENESS
- C. SATANWARD it SEALS God's JUDGEMENT on sin, death and satan's rule

Q3 WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS?

- a. SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT/HE TOOK MY PLACE eg Maximilian Kolbe
- b. REDEMPTION/ RANSOM FROM BONDAGE TO SATAN 1 PETER 1:18-19
- c. CANCELLATION OF THE DEBT FOR SIN - "Paid In Full!" COLOSSIANS 2:13-15
- d. DEAD TO SIN, ALIVE TO GOD ROMANS 6:6-11
- e. SANCTIFICATION THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE CROSS EPHESIANS 5:25
- f. VICTORY OVER SIN, DEATH & SATAN COLOSSIANS 2:13-15
- g. THE ULTIMATE DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S LOVE FOR SINNERS JOHN 3:16
- h. HEALING THROUGH HIS SUFFERING 1 PETER 2:24
- i. DELIVERANCE FROM BONDAGE HEBREWS 2:14-15
- j. ACCESS THROUGH THE TORN VEIL/CURTAIN 1 PETER 3:18; HEBREWS 10:19-22

Q4 WHAT DOES THE CROSS MEAN FOR ME PERSONALLY?

- Freedom from guilt and forgiveness of sins
- My debt has been paid in full
- Deliverance from addictions
- Deliverance from demonic spirits and the occult
- Awareness of God's amazing grace and love for a sinner like me
- The cost to Jesus to forgive my sin and my gratitude to him
- Jesus' blood has opened up the way to the Throne Room of God
- No condemnation now - the Blood of Jesus has cleansed me from all unrighteousness
- God's love for a world of sin, suffering and death
- Physical healing
- Emotional healing
- The terrible cost to God to deal with human sin and satanic evil
- God knows what I'm going through when I suffer
- The Cross deals with the fear of death and dying
- The Cross is God saying "I cannot love you more than this"
- Jesus died in my place to save me from going to a Christless eternity in hell
- Christ's humility shames my pride
- The Cross is the answer to feelings of futility
- The Cross meets every human need
- The Cross and Resurrection are the answer to despair
- The Cross and Resurrection demonstrate God's faithfulness in keeping his promises
- The Cross and Resurrection are the only way to get to heaven

"When I survey the wondrous Cross.....I pour contempt on all my pride."



GALATIANS 2:20



DEAD TO THE OLD LIFE

and rising to

NEW LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

1 PETER 3:15 But in your **HEARTS** sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the **REASON [HEAD]** for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

MATTHEW 22:23-33 We need to know **A. The WORD** of God and **B. The POWER** of God

Two ways of knowing that Jesus really is alive are by -

A. EXAMINING THE EVIDENCE FOR JESUS' RESURRECTION IN THE WORD

B. EXPERIENCING THE REALITY OF JESUS THROUGH THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT

A. EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE

J Warner Wallace *ALIVE: A Cold Case Approach To The Resurrection* (by someone who was an atheist) looks at the evidence from the standpoint of a forensic detective examining the Gospel accounts and assessing the reliability and credibility of the witnesses.

But **WE ALL NEED TO EXPERIENCE A SUPERNATURAL WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** that takes us on a journey *from* the **HEAD** *to* the **HEART** by experiencing a **SUPERNATURAL HEART TRANSPLANT** as God promised in **EZEKIEL 36:24-27**.

B. EXPERIENCE THE REALITY OF THE RISEN CHRIST *through a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit*

Read JOHN 3:3-7 Jesus said that **YOU CAN'T GET TO HEAVEN UNLESS YOU ARE BORN ANOTHER** - involving a **supernatural encounter with Jesus in some way through the ministry of the Holy Spirit** who raised Jesus Christ to life from the dead.

Q. HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT JESUS IS ALIVE TODAY?

A. THROUGH JESUS' PROMISES & A PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH THE RISEN CHRIST

EPHESIANS 1:13-14 SEALED & BETROTHED TO CHRIST

¹³ And **you also were included in Christ** when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, **you were marked in him with a SEAL, the promised Holy Spirit,** ¹⁴ **who is a DEPOSIT*** guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are **God's possession**—to the praise of his glory.

* *arrabon* = (a) seal or guarantee (b) betrothal ring

D. FROM THE AGONY TO THE ECSTASY OF RESURRECTION

From The Cross At Golgotha To The Resurrection From The Garden Tomb

1 CORINTHIANS 15:22 *For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive*

THE AGONY OF SHATTERED DREAMS LUKE 24:13-24

In our journey through the reality of **GALATIANS 2:20** we have walked in Jesus' shoes and sought to look at what happened to him through his eyes, beginning with **THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE** and now coming to **THE ECSTASY OF THE GARDEN TOMB**.

Nowhere is this better illustrated than in the episode recorded by Luke in LUKE 24:13-33.

In this passage we read of the journey taken *not just* by Jesus *but also* by two of his disciples - Cleopas and his wife Mary **from AGONY to ECSTASY based on both SCRIPTURE and EXPERIENCE.**

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, *"What are you discussing together as you walk along?"*

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, *"Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"*

¹⁹ *"What things?"* he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. *"He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."*

THE ECSTASY OF ENCOUNTERING THE RISEN LORD: LUKE 24:25-34

²⁵ He said to them, *"You chumps! How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And **beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.***

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, *"Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over."* So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, ***"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"***

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, *"It is true! He's alive! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."*

THE WORD OF GOD & THE POWER OF GOD

MATTHEW 22:19 *You know neither **THE WORD OF GOD** nor **THE POWER OF GOD.***

ENCOUNTERING THE RISEN CHRIST

A. PEOPLE WHO ENCOUNTERED THE RISEN CHRIST

Read the passages:

Q Who took the **initiative**?

Q How did the person **respond**?

- **MARY MAGDALENE** *"Mary!" "Rabboni!"* **JOHN 20:11-18**
- **TERRIFIED DISCIPLES** *"Shalom! Do not fear!"* **JOHN 20:19-23**
- **THOMAS THE SCEPTIC**
"Touch me to see if I'm real." "My LORD and My God!" **JOHN 20:24-29**
- **CLEOPAS & WIFE**
Expounding the Scriptures & Breaking Bread > Hearts warmed **LUKE 24:13-33**
- **SIMON THE FAILURE**
"Peter, do you love me?" LORD, you know I'm your friend." **JOHN 21:1-22**
- **THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT MINISTER** **ACTS 8:26-40**
"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?"
- **OLD ANANIAS** *"Ananias!" "Yes, LORD!"* **ACTS 9:10-17**
- **SAUL THE PERSECUTOR** *"Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting Me?"* **ACTS 9:1-17**
"What do you want me to do, LORD?"
- **Henry Blackaby Testimony**

When I became a Christian, I couldn't have imagined all God intended to do in and through my life. I grew up in an isolated community on the west coast of Canada near the Alaska border. My father was a bank manager and a dedicated man of God. As a boy I came to a profound realization: God is God and I am not.

That seems straightforward enough, but that truth revolutionized my life. I came to believe that not only is God real, but He wants to take an active role in my life. I grew up to be a shy, introverted teenager. Then in a special worship service, God made it clear to me that He wanted exclusive access to my life to use it for His purposes.

I'll never forget the evening when I fully surrendered my life to God and told him I would do whatever He instructed me to do. From that point on, I no longer attempted to set the agenda for my life. My only goal was to do God's will, whatever that might be.

B. HOW DO YOU KNOW JESUS IS ALIVE TODAY?

Testimonies of Individuals Who Have Encountered Jesus Today

Romans 10:17 *Faith comes from hearing and hearing from a **rhema** of Christ* (lit. from the Greek)

Q **Who** took the **initiative**?

Q **How did you know** it was Jesus?

Q **What did Jesus say** to you?

Q **How did you respond**?



Jesus Came To Set The Captives Free



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