

Five Things Christ Accomplished By His Death

“They crucified Him” (John 19:18)

Men did by their wicked hands crucify Him, the Lord Jesus Christ, and they did so by God’s determinate counsel and foreknowledge (Acts 2:23). They brought guilt upon themselves in crucifying Him, but here are five things that He did in His crucifixion.

(1) In His crucifixion, He crushed the head of Satan. He was manifested to destroy the works of the devil and He did so in His crucifixion.

(2) In his crucifixion, He opened the fountain for sin and uncleanness (Zechariah 13:1). Men open fountains to be admired, but He opened this fountain to be used. Come and wash for His blood “cleanseth from all sin.” “The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day, and there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away.”

(3) In His crucifixion, He “blotted out the hand writing of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” (Col 2:14). The holy Law of God was contrary to us for it demanded perfect obedience in thought, word and deed; and cursed us for our disobedience.

(4) In His crucifixion, He ratified the New and everlasting covenant. “This is my blood in the new covenant”. Now the Testator has died, the will or testament cannot be changed, and besides, He lives to disperse the benefits of the testament to those He named as His heirs.

(5) In His crucifixion, He opened heaven’s door to all “who come unto God by Him”. We don’t know how many will enter heaven’s door. We know it will be a great number, but we do know that all who do will enter through Jesus Christ.

Cast Out the Bondwoman

Therefore whenever thou who believest in Jesus, dost hear the law in its thundering and lightening fits, as if it would burn up heaven and earth; then say thou, I am freed from this law, these thunderings have nothing to do with my soul; nay even this law, while it thus thunders and roareth, it doth allow and approve of my righteousness. I know that Hagar would sometimes be domineering and high, even in Sarah's house and against her; but this she must not be suffered to do, nay though Sarah herself be barren; wherefore serve it [the law] also as Sarah served her, and expel her from thy house. My meaning is this, when this law with its thundering threatenings doth attempt to lay hold on thy conscience, shut it out with a promise of grace; cry, the inn is took up already, the Lord Jesus is here entertained, and there is no room for the law. Indeed if it will be content with being my informer, and so lovingly leave off to judge me; I will be content, it shall be in my sight, I will also delight therein; but otherwise, I being now upright without it, and that too with that righteousness, with which this law speaks well of and approveth; I may not, will not, cannot, dare not, make it my Saviour and Judge, nor suffer it to set up its government in my conscience; for so doing I fall from grace, and Christ doth profit me nothing.

-John Bunyan

Real Peace Is Found In A Person

I know whom I have believed. . . (2 Timothy 1:12)

Many people struggle with what they believe. They spend much time trying to believe in some system or some cause. They are searching for something to fill the empty void deep inside their heart. But the truth is that peace is only found in a person.

Peace will not be found in the things of the world because they are fleeting away (1 John 2:17). Peace of the soul cannot be found in other men because all flesh is as grass and the life of man is as a vapor (Psalm 144:4). Peace cannot be found in us because we are all born dead in sins and we cannot by any works of the flesh please a holy God (Romans 5:12; 8:8). God is just and will by no means clear the guilty. Therefore peace is only found in the person and word of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20).

“But I know *whom* I have believed.” Peace with God can only be found in one person and that is the God-man Jesus Christ the Lord (1 Timothy 3:16). He is the only Savior and mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5). Therefore, all who know him by faith are persuaded like Paul, “that he is able to keep that which I have committed on to him against that day.” We are persuaded of his perfect ability to save us because he has given us a new heart by which we believe (John 6:44; Psalm 110:3). We are persuaded of his righteousness to clothe us and his blood to cleanse us from all our sins (Isaiah 61:10; 1 John 1:7).

Therefore, we who know Jesus Christ by faith *have* peace with God, and nothing can sever our soul from His love (Romans 8:31-39). And we know that Jesus alone is able and willing to keep us in the faith firm to the end (1 Peter 1:5; Jude 1:1; 24; John 14:3).

-Fred Evans

If Sinners Will Turn

For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye. (Ezekiel 18:32)

The Lord in this chapter declares that all souls are his and that He will judge all men with righteous judgment. The just man shall live, but the sinner shall die.

This surely leaves all men by nature without hope because we are all sinners by birth and by choice (Romans 3:10-11; Isaiah 64:6). But God declares hope for the wicked and vile sinner who deserves only eternal damnation. The Lord says, "if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die" (v.21).

Behold what grace and mercy the Lord has shown by giving such a word of hope, that if the sinners will turn from his sin and turn to Jesus Christ he will "SURELY LIVE."

Look and see that Jesus has accomplished all that the sinner will need to be justified. He wrought righteousness by his obedience, and by His one offering on the cross he has satisfied the justice of God for sin. And God has manifested his pleasure in his perfect work by raising him from the dead.

So then, sinner, hear the Lord! Why will you die? Why will you refuse to turn from your self-righteousness and your vain and foolish religion of salvation by the will and works of your flesh? Your nature is corrupt and ruined. Your works are filthy rags, but the work of Jesus is finished. Therefore sinner turn NOW and LIVE!

-Fred Evans

God Causes His People To See Their Disease And Remedy

“He opened their minds—so they could understand the Scriptures.” Luke 24:45

When God opens the eyes of our understanding, we begin to see everything around us to be just as the Scripture has described them. Then, and not until then, we perceive, that what we read in the Bible concerning the horrid evil of sin, the vileness of our fallen nature, the darkness and ignorance of those who know not God, our own emptiness, and the impossibility of finding relief and comfort from creatures—is exactly true.

And as we find our *disease* precisely described—so we perceive a suitability in the proposed *remedy*.

We need a SAVIOR, and He must be a mighty one. And though our needs and sins, our fears and enemies, are great and numerous—we are convinced that the character of Jesus is sufficient to answer them all.

We need a REST, a rest which the world cannot give. Inquire where we will among the *creatures*, experience brings in the same answer from all, *“It is not in me!”* This again confirms the Word of God, which has forewarned us that we shall meet nothing but disappointment in such worldly pursuits. But there is a spiritual rest spoken of, which we know to be the very thing we need, and all our remaining solicitude is how to attain it.

“Come to Me, all of you who are weary and heavy burdened—and I will give you rest!” Matthew 11:28

-John Newton

God's Comfort for Saints

All of God's saints have need of comfort. This is because we are born again of the Spirit, and have a righteous nature that hates sin. Yet in each of us still dwells that old man of sin which Paul calls "the body of this death." Thus we are very troubled by our sin. We are at constant warfare with our own flesh, Satan and this present evil world.

And though we are the children of God we must also suffer the common troubles and afflictions of men (1 Cor. 10:13).

How evil are those false religionist and liars who say that God only wants us to be happy, healthy and wealthy in this world (John 16:33)! They are no comfort to the true saints of God. They rather cause them to doubt and question their salvation because our experience in this life is full of trouble, sorrow, sickness, and poverty. Therefore, we are often like Rebekah, when the twins struggled in her womb, and she inquired of the Lord, "If *it be* so, why *am* I thus?" (Gen. 25:22)

If I am a child of God, chosen of the Father, Redeemed of the Son then why am I so troubled within my own soul? Why am I so cast down, afflicted, and tormented? Why am I made to suffer in this mortal frame if I am so loved of God? Where is such a tried soul to find comfort? Where can we find peace and strength to weather the storms of this life?

The Holy Spirit, knowing our need of such comfort, has called his preachers and given us a simple command: *Comfort ye, Comfort ye my people saith the Lord.*

And this is the comfort we are to give you. That Jesus Christ has accomplished all your warfare. He has taken all the sin of our souls and by His one offering to God has forever purchased our pardon (Heb.9:12; 10:14). So great was His offering that God has counted it as double for all our

sins! Therefore, rejoice in your suffering and sorrow because God's Justice is satisfied and you are accepted of Him in Jesus Christ! This will not comfort the world, but it does settle the heart of God's people.

The Volume and Magnitude Of God's Love in Christ

May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; (Ephesians 3:18)

His Love for us is so broad that it supports all the elect of all time (Matt.16:18). The length of His love stretches from eternity to eternity and there are no gaps of love in time (Jeremiah 31:3). The Love of God is so Deep that Jesus our beloved condescended to be made flesh. He as our substitute was plunged into the depths of God's Justice as He was made sin for us. And by His one offering, He hath perfected all His people (2 Cor 5:21; Heb 10:14). The Height of God's love is as High as He is. For God, having raised up Christ to the throne of Glory, has also raised us up with him in love (Ephesians 2:4-7).

– Fred Evans

The Gospel Is Good News, Or Glad Tidings

The Gospel is sent from Heaven, proclaimed on earth, heard by sinners, and gladly embraced by those who are ordained to eternal life.

The Gospel informs us that eternal redemption is obtained, a way into the

holiest opened, and all condemnation removed from those who believe in Jesus.

The gospel reveals . . .

a Savior, in whom we must trust;

a Sovereign, whom we must obey;

a Priest, on whose atonement we must rest;

a Mediator, through whom we must apply for every blessing which we need;

a Prophet, from whom we must learn;

a friend, in whose love we must confide;

a brother, from whom we may expect;

a father, whose authority we must revere;

an apostle, whose mission we must study; and

an advocate, to whom we must commit our cause.

The gospel . . . flows from the free love, rich grace, and abundant mercy of our *God*; is founded in the *Savior's* person, mediation, and death; becomes efficacious through the revelation, operation, and application of the *Holy Spirit*. By it, he begets faith, imparts love, and excites hope; and when accompanied by his blessing – it is received in demonstration and power.

The gospel is an everlasting monument of God's wisdom, grace, and love. O may I feel more of the *power*, receive more of the *light*, and manifest more of the *spirit* of the gospel! O may I find it as sweet as honey, yes sweeter than the honeycomb to my taste! May I be taught to despise everything in compare with it, and say –

Should all the forms that men devise,
Assault my faith with treacherous art;
I'd call them vanity and lies,
And bind the gospel to my heart!

-James Smith

The Father's Will

"I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me." (John 6:38)

We all recognize that these are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. They concern His Father's will in sending Him into this world. He then follows by telling us three things that the Father's will includes and that He came to do. The Father's will that he came to do includes:

(1) *Not losing one that the Father gave Him.* When was He given a people? It was from eternity when He was set up to be the Mediator of the everlasting covenant. He was given a people, whom the Father chose in Him, and God's will is that he not lose one of them.

(2) *Raising up in the last day each and every one the Father gave Him.* This meant that He must do for them all that is needed to make them "meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light (Col. 1:12)." He must live and die for them as their substitute and surety; to pay their sin debt and give them a righteousness that God would accept.

(3) *Giving everlasting life to everyone who sees and believes on Him.*

Question: Who would be so foolish to declare that the Lord Jesus failed to do the will of His Father? Answer: Everyone who teaches that Christ only made salvation *possible*, rather than *certain* for all those He was given. Everyone who teaches that there are those in hell for whom Christ died, rather than His blood redeeming all those given to Him. Everyone who teaches that salvation is dependent on man's supposed free will, rather than "on God that showeth mercy."

-David Pledger, Pastor of Lincolnwood Baptist Church, Houston, TX USA

No Matter How Deep

At that moment the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. (Luke 22:61)

There was a deep meaning in that look.

It was **a sermon which Peter never forgot.**

The love of Christ toward His people is a deep well which has no bottom! Let us never measure it by comparison with any kind of love of man or woman. It exceeds all other love—as far as the sun exceeds the candle light. There is about it a mine of compassion, and patience, and readiness to forgive sin—of whose riches we have but a faint conception.

Let us not be afraid to trust that love—when we first feel our sins. No man need despair, however far he may have fallen, if he will only repent and turn to Christ. If the heart of Jesus was so gracious when He was a prisoner in the judgment hall—we surely need not think it is less gracious, when He sits in glory at the right hand of the Father!

-J.C Ryle