

Introduction:

John 15:13: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

- Christ's suffering before dying

Mark 15:16: Roman soldiers scourged Jesus' back with a whip

Matthew 27:29: Roman soldiers put a crown of thorns on His head, mock-worshipped Him, & beat Him on the head

1. The Burden of the Cross

a. Physical burden

Isaiah 53:4-5: Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem [consider] him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

b. Emotional burden

- In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father, Luke 22:42-44 "And being in agony He prayed more earnestly. And His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

Mark 15:16-20: And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium [the Roman governor's residence]; and they [the soldiers] call together the whole band [even more soldiers]. And they clothed him with purple¹, and platted [made] a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote [beat] him on the head with a reed [like a cane], and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.

c. Spiritual burden

Mathew 27:46: And about the ninth hour [3 PM] Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

1 Peter 2:24: Who his own self [Jesus] bare our sins in his own body on the tree [the cross], that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes [Jesus' beating and death] ye were healed.

¹ In ancient times only royalty would wear purple garments. This act by the soldiers was to mock Jesus for being King of the Jews.

2. The Blood of the Cross

a. From miraculous origin

- Miracle of no human father when Mary conceived.

Luke 1:35: And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

b. Miraculous opportunity

- i. Blood of Jesus on the cross is central part of price Jesus paid on the cross for my sins

Acts 20:28: Take heed therefore unto yourselves [Ephesian Church pastors], and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed [lead and care for] the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

1 Peter 1:18-19: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Hebrews 9:22: And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

- ii. Jesus is my High Priest for all my prayers

Mark 15:37-38: And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost [died]. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain [torn in half] from the top to the bottom.

Hebrews 10:19-20: Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest [in God's presence] by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated [opened a holy path] for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Hebrews 4:15-16: For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched [sympathize] with the feeling of our infirmities [weaknesses]; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

3. The Blessings of the Cross

a. **Jesus is the only sacrifice acceptable to God.**

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 [died].

b. Redemption

- Cost more to redeem us than to create us

1 Peter 1:18-19: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation [empty lifestyle] received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Exodus 12:13: And the blood shall be to you [Israelites] for a token [sign] upon the houses where ye are: and when I [God] see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite [punish] the land of Egypt.

Hebrews 10:10-12: By the which [through Jesus' sacrifice] will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices [bulls and sheep], which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;

c. Justification

Romans 3:23-25: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation [the payment for a debt] through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission [passing over] of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Romans 5:9: Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

d. Reconciliation

- There is only one mediator (reconciler) & He has nail-pierced hands

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Colossians 1:20: And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Ephesians 1:7: In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

e. Salvation

- What Jesus did saves me

Titus 3:4-5: But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness [good deeds] which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;