

# "CHRIST'S REDEMPTIVE PASSION"

Isaiah 53:1-12

**INTRODUCTION:** Text is the same passage the **Ethiopian eunuch** was reading when returning to his own country, after having been to Jerusalem to worship.

**Acts 8:32-35** *"The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and **preached unto him Jesus.**"*

A. The eunuch was returning empty because the Jew's religion was one of **form** and **ritualism** (God knew how empty he was.) **God knows if you are too!**

1. **Then God sent Phillip, the evangelist, along!** **God still sends someone along that He can use.** I like when If feel I'm on a Divine appointment!

B. When these verses were explained by Phillip (v.35), the eunuch accepted Christ as his Savior. Why was the eunuch so moved?

1. These verses reveal the "Passion Of Christ" in going to the cross to purchase man's salvation. **GIVE MESSAGE TITLE HERE.**

a. Phillip presented Jesus as the Godly dying for the ungodly, the Holy One for the unholy, the Innocent One for the guilty, the Sinless One for sinners.

b. Upon learning of Christ's passion, and suffering for man (especially him), the eunuch was overwhelmed.

c. He accepted Christ and was baptized. "Afterwards, he went on his way rejoicing." **God wants to do the same for you, if you aren't saved.**

d. He will if you will respond as the eunuch did; **repent of your sins and accept Christ Jesus as your Savior, and you can also go rejoicing today.**

C. There are many other Scriptures **which give additional evidence of Christ's passion in what He did before going to the cross.** We read **He did the following for us, prior to His death in:**

**Phillipians 2:7-8** *"But made himself of no reputation, (divested himself of any visible glory) (no public relation blitz) and took upon him the **form** of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men (not angels): And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself (Isa. 53:2), and became obedient unto death, **even the death of the cross.**"* **Form** = nature, demeanor, character.

1. *He wouldn't allow anything to keep Him from obeying God's will so that His death would count for us.* **We are to make sure our lives count for him.**

2. Paul said in **Philippians 1:21** “*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*”

a. This should be every persons purpose as a Christian, in light of: **Isa. 53:12** “*Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the **strong**;..*”

3. In coming to earth and going to the cross, Christ stripped Himself of His Heavenly glory so that all men could identify with Him, *from the least to the greatest.*

4. *He manifested His love in the greatest way possible, by living a life in total obedience to God and then suffering death on a cruel Roman cross for sinners.*

Rome would not crucify its citizens on a cross – **it was reserved for criminals, and rebels; and people who weren't Roman citizens.**

**Hebrews 12:2** “*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the \*joy (?) that was set before him endured the cross \*joy (?), despising the shame \*joy (?), and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*” **It was...**

a. The **\*joy** of seeing millions finding peace and experiencing hope through Him; the **joy** of seeing millions marching into Heaven because of Him.

D. Let's **look again** at the statement “*even the death of the cross*” (**Phil. 2:2**)

1. **What made Him do it? What made Him have so much passion as to redeem us by way of the Cross?**

**Romans 5:6-8** “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

E. There were **two statements** made 1000's of years ago by **Almighty God** that evidently played a vital part in Jesus **enduring the Cross, making possible man's salvation.**

**Statement #1 Gen. 6:3** “*My Spirit shall not always strive with man...*”

1. Jesus knew what the results would be for man, so **He came to make known the love of God toward sinful man and enable man to be able to live a life pleasing unto God.**

“**Strive**” means that God gives man more than one opportunity, **but not endless opportunities.**

b. This verse once moved men. It seems to have lost its cutting edge today, **BUT it hasn't: today, men's hearts have become gospel hardened.**

**Question:** What would happen if the Spirit didn't strive with a person?

*Answer: Souls would be eternally lost after only 1 time of God dealing with them to repent. Has He dealt with more than once? Be careful how you respond!*

**Statement #2: Ezekiel.18:4**"*The soul that sinneth, it shall die."*

2. **Emphasis here is on Spiritual death** which is *eternal separation from God in outer darkness, in "everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels"* (Matt. 25:42).

**Did you know that Spiritual death is worse than natural death - as fearful and cruel as natural death may seem?**

**Christ didn't die to keep man from natural death, but from one much more horrible** – the **2nd death** – **that of being cast into a lake of fire.**

**Revelation 20:6** Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power,..

**Revelation 20:13-14** "...**death and hell** delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 **And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.**"

E. **Question: Did God really mean what He said in these two statements mention above (Genesis 6:3; Ezekiel 18:4)? Answer:**

1. **Jesus, being omnipresent, saw the look on His Father's face when He made these statements. He knew what He personally felt in His heart upon hearing His Father make them.**

2. **Jesus was so convinced that God meant it, He paid the ultimate price with His own life.**

a. **How convinced are you about the two statements?** How about you: Sinner? / Backslider? / Parents? / Husband? / Wife? / Children? / Friend?

3. **Jesus was so convinced that He gave His life to save men from the eternal punishment of their sin in a lake of fire and torment. **How convinced are you?****

## **II. CHRIST'S REDEMPTIVE PASSION - WHAT WAS IT?**

A. It was an overwhelming, driving love for the salvation of lost souls.

1. The thought of you and me being eternally lost in the blackness of outer darkness and tormented away from God, broke Jesus' heart. **WHY?**

**Answer: Because of what He saw ahead for every unsaved, backslidden, lukewarm, and unprofitable person (including His servants) ( See Matt.25:29)**

2. **He saw what John the Revelator saw and showed it to John on the Isle of Patmos, and had him to write about it for our sakes. Let me read it to you:**

**Rev. 21:8** "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, (along with skeptics and scoffers) shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire

*and brimstone: which is the second death." (They will be in the company of hypocrites). **Jesus saw this place of torment and left us this record:***

**Rev. 20:10** "... and shall be tormented **day and night** for ever and ever."

**Rev. 14:11** "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night,..."

3. In Heaven there will be no nights; in hell there will be no end to them: "cast the **unprofitable servant** into **outer darkness**: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:29).

To add to the agony of torment those who go there will have their memory. Here we've known the frustration of forgetting; in hell souls don't have that privilege. "*Abraham said to rich man, "Son, remember..."*" (Lu 16:25).

They have the agony of also knowing their lost loved ones left behind are headed there if they don't get saved. How do we know?

**Luke 16:27-28** "Then he [rich man] said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him [Lazarus] to my father's house: 28 For **I have five brethren**; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment."

C. Jesus gave His life because of what He saw ahead for the unprofitable servants of God.

**Matt. 25:25** "And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, **thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strowed**: 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but **cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**"

D. The fervor (steady glow or burning) of Christ's passion (love) was also expressed in: His praying, and devotion to the will of God.

**Matt. 26:37-39** "And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and **began to be sorrowful and very heavy**. 38 Then saith he unto them, **My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death** (average man would have died): tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 And he went a little farther, and **fell on his face**, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: **nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.**"

**Luke 22:44** "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and **his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**"

**CONCLUSION:**

A. Just prior to his death, Jesus disciples slept while He agonized in prayer!

1. What is He going through now while the church sleeps and souls are dying lost and heading for hell? (How many of the 10 virgins slept?)

**John 13:1** "Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come **that he should depart out of this world** (He knew the cross was the means of His departure) unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he (Jesus) loved them unto the end."

2. **He wants to love you, there is none above you!!**

B. Is Christ still **striving** with you? *Then you need to do something now!*

1. Have you sinned? **Unless you repent and accept Him as your personal savior you will perish -- in a lake of fire.**

C. The choice is up to you, because God has made provision for you to escape, **but you must make the effort.** **How?** Again **you must:**

1. Come, repent of your sins and accept Jesus as your personal savior.

2. Afterwards, **make Him Lord and Master, and then live for Him!**

D. **How convinced are you of your friends and loved ones spending eternity in a place of outer-darkness and torment away from God?**

1. **Enough to seek God for their salvation?**

2. **Enough to invite them to church or to the next revival?**

3. ***Enough to fast and pray for them this week and "testify to them"?***

E. How convinced are you of what is going to happen to the ***unprofitable servants?***

1. **Enough to make a renewed commitment to God?**

2. **Enough to make Him Lord and Master of all you are and have?**

a. ***He came to be more than just a Savior for fire insurance?***

F. Will you be among the ***"fearful and unbelieving"*** and be guilty of burying your talents?

G. **Don't refuse the greatest act of love made toward and in behalf of mankind!**

1. In going to the cross, Christ (stripped Himself of His Heavenly glory) so that all men could identify with Him, from the least to the greatest.

2. He knows ***you can't*** save yourself, so He came and paid the price with His own life. Come let Him save you this morning!!

3. Let Him blot out all your sins, never to be remembered against you again, ***and give you peace like you have never known.***

**1 Peter 1:3-5** “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,* <sup>4</sup>*To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,* <sup>5</sup>*Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto **salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***” Note: This salvation is the redemption of the body from the power of death. Our souls have already been redeemed from the power of sin.

**4. Don't you want to know what your inheritance is and enjoy it for all eternity? If so repent of your sins accept Christ Jesus as your personal savior and let your life count for Him, His did for you!!**