

Not the Nails
October 8, 2017
by C Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Mark 15:15-31

15 And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged *him*, to be crucified.

16 And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band.

17 And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his *head*,

18 And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews!

19 And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing *their* knees worshipped him.

20 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.

21 And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.

22 And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull.

23 And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received *it* not.

24 And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take.

25 And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

26 And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

27 And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left.

28 And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.

29 And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest *it* in three days,

30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.

31 Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, **He saved others; himself he cannot save.**

So why didn't Jesus come down from the cross?

Better question yet, why did He allow himself to be put there in the first place?

I mean, If Jesus is God and God is all powerful and all things are possible with God...what is the problem?

Jesus even said in the Garden as He was being arrested:

Matthew 26:53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

The chief priests were actually correct in one of the disparaging statements they were casting at Jesus as He hung there dying on the cross.

...He saved others; himself he cannot save.

Jesus being who the Bible says He is; there is something far bigger going on here than just the crucifixion of someone falsely accused.

First of all:

I. Jesus truly is God.

A. One of the most powerful and necessary doctrines in the whole Bible is the deity of Jesus Christ.

1. 1Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

2. Jesus is God manifest in flesh.

3. John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**.

4. John 1:14

And **the Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

This great doctrine is so essential that:

B. You cannot be saved from your sins without knowing and believing that Jesus is God.

1. John 8:24

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that **I am** he, ye shall die in your sins.

2. It makes perfect sense because salvation is not of us; only God can save.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that **not of yourselves**: *it is* the gift of God:

9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

3. **Jonah 2:9**

...Salvation *is* of the LORD.

4. Sinful man has no power to do anything about his sinful condition.

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

5. **Titus 3:4-6**

4 But after that the kindness and love of **God our Saviour** toward man appeared,
5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
6 Which he shed on us abundantly through **Jesus Christ our Saviour**;

5. Here we can see clearly:

In verse 4 God is our Savior.

In verse 6 Jesus is our Savior.

The obvious conclusion is that Jesus is God our Savior.

C. This doctrine is primary and basic.

1. Until you understand that Jesus is truly God Himself in flesh, you don't even have a foundation on which to build your knowledge of God.

2. This doctrine is foundational virtually above all others.

3. This doctrine is a primary tenet of the doctrine of Christ.

4. There are many out there who teach that Jesus was just a man or perhaps an Angel; like for example the so-called "Jehovah's Witnesses".

5. The Bible tells us that anyone who teaches that Jesus is not God in flesh should be counted as a fool and dismissed completely.

6. **2 John 1:9-10**

9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed:

II. There is nothing God cannot do.

A. *God has power to create.*

1. He is the creator; not only of us but of this entire universe and beyond.

2. Just how far does this power reach? Read it:

3. **John 1:1-3**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

B. *God has power to save.*

1. **Colossians 1:9-22**

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;

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.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

2. Jesus can save to the uttermost.

3. **Hebrews 7:24-25**

24 But this *man*, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

C. *God can even save those who seem beyond redemption.*

1. **Matthew 19:16-26**

16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

17 And he said unto him, *Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*

18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?

26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, *With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.*

2. Apparently this young man did not love his neighbor quite as much as himself after all.

3. Are you like this young man? Do you see yourself as a good person or as a sinner who needs a Savior?

4. It was not his riches that kept him out of heaven!

Truly there is nothing God cannot do, however:

III. There are many things God will not do.

Here are just a few:

A. *God will not allow His Word to fail.*

1. **Matthew 5:17-18**

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

2. **Matthew 24:35**

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

B. God will not lie.

1. **Psalm 89:33-35**

33 Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.

34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

35 Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.

2. This means that God will keep every promise He has made to us!

C. God will not allow even one of His sheep to be lost.

1. **John 10:27-29**

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

2. **Romans 8:38-39**

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C. God will not reject any sinner who will place his trust in Jesus to save him.

1. **John 6:44**

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

2. Is the Lord drawing you to Jesus today?

3. Come put your trust in Jesus right now; today; He will not turn you away.

4. **John 6:37** All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Conclusion:

Mark 15:29-31

29 And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest *it* in three days,

30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.

31 Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, **He saved others; himself he cannot save.**

Knowing Who Jesus is and the power that is ever at His command; what was so powerful enough to hold Him on that cross?

One thing is certain, it was not the nails!

There can only be one answer.

The one thing that was powerful enough to hold Him fast to those wooden beams of suffering and death was without question, His love for YOU!