

### Verses 16-17

- Jesus bore His cross on the way to His death. The part of the cross the victim would carry was the horizontal aspect of the cross. Due to the physical impact of His scourging, beating, and physical affliction He had endured, Simon of Cyrene was compelled to help carry His cross (**Matthew 27:32, Mark 15:21, Luke 23:36**). To take up one's cross and follow Jesus (**Matthew 16:35**)(**Luke 9:23**) is to be willing to follow Jesus even to the point of death.
- Jesus not only bore His cross, but He also bore the sins of His sheep.
  - **1 Peter 2:21-24** For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, <sup>22</sup> who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; <sup>23</sup> [a]and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; <sup>24</sup> and He Himself [b] bore our sins in His body on the [c] cross, so that we might die to [d] sin and live to righteousness; for by His [e] wounds you were healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and [f] Guardian of your souls.
- Golgotha was outside the city gates of Jerusalem.
  - **Hebrews 13:11-12** For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest *as an offering* for sin, are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup> Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

### Verse 18

- Accounts of the two criminals:
  - **Matthew 27:38-44** At that time two robbers \*were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. <sup>39</sup> And those passing by were [a] hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "You who *are going to* destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking *Him* and saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others; [b] He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God rescue *Him* now, if He [c] delights in Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" <sup>44</sup> The robbers who had been crucified with Him were also insulting Him with the same words.
  - **Mark 15:27-28** They \*crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left. <sup>28</sup> [a] And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with transgressors."
    - **Isaiah 53:12** Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out [a] Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.
- **Luke 23:39-43** One of the criminals who were hanged *there* was [a] hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the [b] Christ? Save Yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed *are suffering* justly, for we are receiving [c] what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come [d] in Your kingdom!" <sup>43</sup> And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

*Christ was sinless and innocent and not deserving of death on the cross. He was there on that cross not because of His sin or guilt, but rather because of the sin of His elect. Christ died a substitutionary death for His sheep on the cross and was numbered among the transgressors as He was hanging in between two criminals on the day of His crucifixion. The two criminals heard the same words from Christ that day and saw the same event unfolding in front of their eyes. So why did one criminal believe and the other did not? There was not alter call with soft music in the background, no raise your hand to accept Christ, and no sinner's prayer. His heart was brought from death to life by the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit. In the middle of the pain, agony, anguish, bleeding, and torture of the cross, God made His soul regenerated so the criminal would believe. As the criminal was first nailed to the cross, he was a lost sheep and before he died, he was a found sheep. Christ laid down His life for His sheep and He was dying for this criminal. Christ and His cross was in the middle of two people and their responses were completely different. They were on two opposites side of the cross in their belief. The same is true of every human that has ever and will ever live: every person is either on the believing side or the non-believing side of Christ and the cross. For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who <sup>[a]</sup>are perishing, but to us who <sup>[b]</sup>are being saved it is the power of God(1 Corinthians 1:18). The side of the cross you are on determines your eternal destination. Those on the unbelieving side will have eternal punishment in the lake of fire and those on the believing side of the cross have the promise given to the believing criminal on the cross: that one day we will be with Christ in Paradise.*

#### **Verses 19-22**

- Criminals would have the charges that they were being crucified for hung above them (Matthew 27:37). Christ was not found guilty of any crime so Pilate having "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews" was probably and attempt to take a jab at the Jews. However, the inscription is correct as He is Messiah from the Jews and He is also the King of Kings (Rev 19:16).

#### **Verses 23-24**

- The garments of the criminal belonged to those who were bringing about the execution. The four soldiers take Jesus' outer garments and divide it among themselves. They take His tunic and cast lots to decide whose it shall be. This was done to fulfill Psalm 22:18.
  - Psalm 22:18 They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

#### **Verses 25-27**

- There are multiple woman followers of Christ present at His crucifixion, but only the Apostle John is mentioned as being there. Jesus knowing that His time on earth is nearing an end, He charges John to take His mother Mary into his household and look after her.
- Mary felt sadness, heartache, and grief watching her Son die on the cross. This was spoken of in Luke 2:33-35.
  - Luke 2:33-35 And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this *Child* is appointed for the fall and <sup>[a]</sup>rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed— <sup>35</sup> and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

#### **Verses 28-29**

- Jesus has accomplished all that He was sent to accomplish and now stating He is thirsty, receives a drink of sour wine. He had refused to drink wine with gall (Matthew 27:34) and myrrh (Mark 15:23) which was used to temporarily reduce pain. He was to take upon Himself the full wrath and justice of God the Father.
- Now that He has accomplished all things and has drunk the cup of wrath from the Father, He receives a drink from a hyssop branch. The hyssop branch/plant was used to sprinkle the blood of the Passover lamb to the doors on the night of the Passover (Exodus 12:21-22). Christ is the true Passover Lamb.

**Verse 30** Jesus declares “it is finished.” The Greek word used is *tetelestai* which means “paid in full.” Christ’s death atoned for the sins of His sheep as He was the propitiation for their sins.

- **Colossians 2:13-14** When you were dead <sup>[a]</sup>in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, <sup>14</sup>having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
- His work was complete and there was nothing else needed to be done to ensure the salvation for His elect. The Holy Spirit will apply the finished work of Christ to all the elect.
- Christ bowed His head and gave up His spirit speaks to **John 10:17-18.**
  - **John 10:17-18** For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. <sup>18</sup>No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”
  - **Mark 15:33-39** When the <sup>[a]</sup>sixth hour came, darkness <sup>[a]</sup>fell over the whole land until the <sup>[a]</sup>ninth hour. <sup>34</sup>At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” <sup>35</sup>When some of the bystanders heard it, they *began* saying, “Behold, He is calling for Elijah.” <sup>36</sup>Someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink, saying, “[<sup>[a]</sup>]Let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down.” <sup>37</sup>And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last. <sup>38</sup>And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup>When the centurion, who was standing <sup>[a]</sup>right in front of Him, saw <sup>[a]</sup>the way He breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was <sup>[a]</sup>the Son of God!”
  - **Hebrews 10:19-20** Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,
  - **Isaiah 53:1-12** Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? <sup>2</sup>For He grew up before Him like a tender <sup>[a]</sup>shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no *stately* form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should <sup>[a]</sup>be attracted to Him. <sup>3</sup>He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of <sup>[a]</sup>sorrows and acquainted with <sup>[a]</sup>grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. <sup>4</sup>Surely our <sup>[a]</sup>griefs He Himself bore, And our <sup>[a]</sup>sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, <sup>[a]</sup>Smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But He was <sup>[a]</sup>pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our <sup>[a]</sup>well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. <sup>6</sup>All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To <sup>[a]</sup>fall on Him. <sup>7</sup>He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. <sup>8</sup>By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the <sup>[a]</sup>living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*? <sup>9</sup>His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. <sup>10</sup>But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, <sup>[a]</sup>putting *Him* to grief; If <sup>[a]</sup>He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see *His* <sup>[a]</sup>offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the <sup>[a]</sup>good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand. <sup>11</sup>As a result of the <sup>[a]</sup>anguish of His soul, He will see <sup>[a]</sup>it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out <sup>[a]</sup>Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

*When the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption of sons (Gal 4:4-5). He lived a perfect life, He fulfilled all righteousness, and has now drunk the cup of wrath from the Father to be the atonement and propitiation for His sheep. He accomplished all He was sent to accomplish from the Father and as He is dying declares “it is finished.” He is declaring that the debt that His sheep owed which was death and the wrath of the Father has been paid for by His substitutionary life and death. He is the Good Shepherd as He lies His life down for the sheep. The salvation of His elect was guaranteed when He declared “tetelestai, it is finished.” Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed me white as snow. It was for this hour that He came!*