

The Passion of Christ

“I believe in Jesus Christ who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried”

Maine Theme: All suffering is a consequence of sin. Jesus came in his passion to take upon himself the curse of sin for his own.

Q. 36. **What do you believe when you say He suffered?**

A. That He all the time of His life which He led on this earth, but especially at the end of it, sustained the wrath of God, both in body and soul, against the sin of all mankind, that He might by His passion, as the only propitiatory sacrifice, deliver our body and soul from everlasting damnation and purchase for us the favor of God, righteousness, and eternal life.

Q. 37. **For what cause should He suffer under Pilate, as being His judge?**

A. That He being innocent and condemned before a civil judge, might deliver us from the severe judgement of God which remained for all men.

Q. 38. **But is there any more in it, that He was fastened to the cross, that if He had suffered any other kind of death?**

A. There is more. By this I am assured that He took upon Himself the curse which did lie on me, for the death of the cross was cursed of God.

Psa 53:3-12 A modern-day narrative

I. The Suffering Savior

1. In life

2. Especially in death

- Jesus' suffering was active. He came not as a victim, but in active obedience. Heb 10:5-7

3. Jesus' Passion

- There was no other way.

II. Judged by Pilate

1. Innocent declared guilty

2. The World rejects its creator/savior

3. God behind it all

III. The Cross: Cursed

1. Hanged on a tree

- No weight, no honor
- Alive

“he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors”

2. The curse is placed on Him for our sake

Rom 8:31-33 “...Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect?”

He: Innocent, yet condemned. Perfect, yet laden with sin.

We: Guilty, yet guiltless. Laden with sin, yet set free from condemnation.

Application

- Take up your cross Christian!
- Seeing how devastating the wrath of God for sin. Do not take sin lightly.
- Though Christ made satisfaction in life (all righteousness,) and in death (all punishment), this satisfaction must be applied. It is applied by faith accompanied with repentance.

Questions

1. There must be proportion of punishment to the crime. How can the ransom that Christ paid correspond with the vast number of humanity?

2. God cannot suffer and die. Christ suffered and died. *Therefore, he is not God?*

Christ is not only God, but is also man. He suffered and died in respect to his human nature.

So, saying God purchased the church with his own blood is false?

John 10:18 “No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. Col 2:13-15