

# Celebrating the Love and Life of Christ

*Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023*

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## **The love behind Jesus' willingness to become the lamb of God.**

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NLT) *You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty He could make you rich.*

He left the glory of Heaven. He stepped out of the realm of eternity and into this world.

Philippians 2:7 (NLT) *Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form.*

John 15:12–13 <sup>12</sup>*"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.* <sup>13</sup>*Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.*

## **The commitment of Jesus to finish the work.**

Jesus demonstrated His love through His commitment to do what was necessary for our salvation from sin; from our plight of eternal damnation; to reconcile us with God and to give us an eternal inheritance.

Philippians 2:8 (NLT) *He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.*

When they came to arrest Jesus, Peter was ready to fight and resist, but Jesus said to Peter, *"Put your sword back into its sheath. Shall I not drink from the cup of suffering the Father has given Me?"*

John 18:11 (NLT)

Matthew 26:53–54 (NLT) <sup>53</sup>*Don't you realize that I could ask My Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and He would send them instantly?* <sup>54</sup>*But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?"* This He spoke of was the great suffering which lie ahead for Him.

## **The experience of suffering endured by Jesus.**

Isaiah 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

The gospels tell us that He was struck by the hand of an officer at the home of Annas, guards spit upon Him, He was blindfolded, struck, slapped, and showered with many different blows. These all occurred during the night of His arrest before He was taken before the Roman governor, Pilate.

When Pilate examined Him, he couldn't find any reason to justify Jesus' execution, so He ordered Jesus to be scourged in an attempt to appease the blood thirsty mob which was demanding for His death.

### **The suffering of scourging taken from Dr. Thomas W. McGovern's book, "What Christ Suffered".**

The physical injuries of scourging are due to repeated blunt trauma.

- The skin would demonstrate widespread bruises and swelling with tissue fluid.
- After being struck repeatedly, swollen areas of skin would rupture and exude clear or bloody fluid. Blood could also pool in the muscles of the chest and any part of the body.
- Severe pain increases oxygen consumption, which would require more rapid breathing and a higher output of blood from the heart.
- There would be blunt chest trauma which could lead to multiple problems: such as small tears in the lung that allow air to enter the chest cavity between the lungs and chest wall. This

compresses the lungs and reduces how much air a person can breathe into his lungs. Sometimes a lung will completely collapse.

- Jesus was almost certainly dehydrated from his agony-induced sweating and bleeding
- There would be blunt cardiac trauma. According to neurosurgeon and author Dr. Mark Kubala, the muscle damage Jesus suffered from the violent scourging would have led to release of potassium from muscle tissue. This would have increased potassium levels in his blood, a condition known as **hyperkalemia**, which can disrupt normal heart rhythms. In fact, intravenous injections of potassium are a common modern means of administering the death penalty.

*“Because it seems that Pilate wanted Jesus’ scourging to be the full punishment, it is possible that his beating was more severe than a typical pre-crucifixion scourging.”* (McGovern, Thomas W. What Christ Suffered (p. 100) Kindle Edition.)

Mark 15:44 (NIV) Pilate was surprised to hear that He was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died.

## **The injustice of man for the justice of God.**

Jesus suffered the injustice of man in order to satisfy the justice of God against sin.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God.

## **The power of the resurrection of Christ.**

However, the power of death could not overpower Him, nor could the grave keep hold of Him. *“Up from the grave He arose with a mighty triumph over His foes. He arose the victor of the dark domain, and He lives forever with His saints to rein!”* His victory has become our salvation.

Romans 6:4–8 <sup>4</sup> We have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup>knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup>for he who has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

1 Corinthians 15:55–57 <sup>55</sup>“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” <sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; <sup>57</sup>but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **The expectation of His return.**

John 14:1–3 <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup>“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (NASB95)<sup>16</sup>For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.