

Lesson 9: *Knowing Christ (2)—
His Crucifixion*

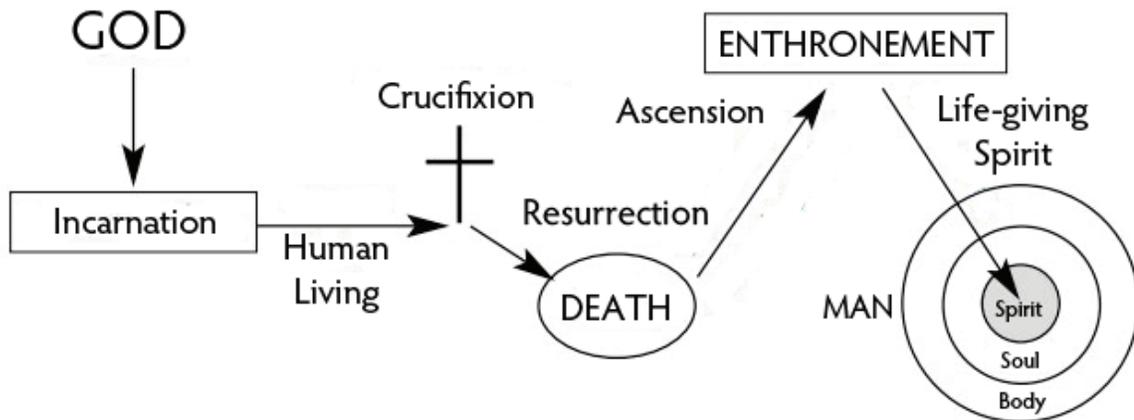


Fig. 1 - Schematic of the processes Christ went through

Lesson Objective: In this lesson, you can expect to learn all the items Christ dealt with on the cross as well as how the cross of Christ can be practical in our experience.

I. The Facts Regarding the Lord's Crucifixion

Isa. 53:6b ...And Jehovah has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

Christ was crucified beginning at nine o'clock in the morning: "Now from the sixth hour darkness fell over all the land until the ninth hour" (Matt. 27:45). The situation of the universe changed because the age had changed. From nine o'clock to noon was one period of time, and from noon to three o'clock in the afternoon was another period. Between these two periods, darkness fell over the heaven and the earth. In other words, God came in to deal with sin by causing Christ to bear all the sins of man.

Christ was crucified for a total of six hours, from nine o'clock in the morning to three o'clock in the afternoon. In the first three hours, it was men who persecuted Him; it was not yet God who punished Him on behalf of us sinners. In these three hours He suffered in martyrdom and not yet for redemption. We need to be clear about this. The first three hours of suffering were for the sake of the truth, in martyrdom, not for redemption. Then at noon the whole earth became dark. From this time until three o'clock, God came to judge Christ in the sinners' place. According to Isaiah 53, God put our sins on Him (v. 6). In these three hours God judged us sinners and our sins by judging the Lord Jesus. This was not a continuation of men's persecution of Him. In these three hours He suffered for redemption, not in martyrdom.

Of the same period of punishment on the cross, the first half was in martyrdom, while the second half was in redemption. In the first half, men persecuted Him. At

noon darkness fell over the heaven and the earth, and God placed our sins on the Lord Jesus Christ. At that time the hands of men stopped, and God came in to judge Him. During this time the Lord cried, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46) The only answer is, "For the sins of us sinners."

I. The Significance of the Lord's Crucifixion

God has a purpose in His plan, but man's fall brought in three problems. In order for Christ to fulfill God's plan, He had to deal with all three problems and also fulfill the original purpose of God's plan. To deal with the problems that are the result of man's fall, Christ had to die on the cross and accomplish redemption. Redemption dealt with the negative problems in order to bring fallen man back to God. Moreover, through His death on the cross Christ released God's life to His redeemed people to fulfill the positive purpose of God's plan.

A. The Cross of Christ Dealing with Man's Sins

Isaiah 53:11b ...By the knowledge of Him, the righteous One, My Servant, will make the many righteous, and He will bear their iniquities.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was wounded because of our transgressions; He was crushed because of our iniquities; the chastening for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24 Who Himself bore up our sins in His body on the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed.

1 Peter 3:18a For Christ also has suffered once for sins, the Righteous on behalf of the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God....

2 Corinthians 5:21 Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

As a result of the fall, man's first problem before God is sin. Sin contradicts God's righteousness, and God's righteousness cannot tolerate sin. God loves the man whom He created, but His righteousness requires Him to condemn man because of the fall.

According to His righteousness, God condemned man; hence, man cannot escape death. However, God's plan cannot be accomplished if man must perish. In order for God to solve this problem, He must satisfy both His righteousness and love so that His government and plan are not hindered. God solved this problem by being incarnated as a man in order to be man's Substitute, that is, to bear man's sins and die in man's place. As a man, Jesus Christ was accountable to God's righteousness and suffered the punishment that man should have suffered on account of sin. He satisfied the requirement of God's righteousness for man and fulfilled the desire of God's love for man so that God's government would be upheld and His plan could be accomplished.

In His death on the cross the Lord Jesus bore man's sins; He was punished on

behalf of man. He was not crucified as a sacrificial martyr but as our Substitute, bearing our sins and suffering God's righteous punishment on our behalf. God cannot accept man because of his sinful nature, but the Lord Jesus was without sin. Before He was crucified, He was examined both by the Jewish priests, according to God's law, and the Gentile officials, according to the law of the Roman Empire, but no one could find fault in Him (Luke 23:4, 13-15, 22). He was sinless, but God forsook Him on the cross because He bore our iniquity. In the eyes of God Christ was a sinner on the cross. Although He was sinless and did not know sin, at the cross God caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him (Isa. 53:6). God made Him our sin offering and trespass offering so that He could bear our sins on our behalf (v. 10).

The Lord Jesus was judged by God on the cross because He bore our sins and because He was made sin on our behalf. Our sins were judged by God upon the Lord Jesus, and we were judged by God in Him. Thus, we have been cleansed before God, and we have become the righteousness of God in Christ (v. 21). Christ bore our sins so that we might receive the forgiveness of sins and be justified by God, and He was made sin on our behalf so that we might become God's righteousness and be acceptable to God in Him. This is the first accomplishment of Christ's death on the cross for us.

B. The Cross of Christ Dealing with Man

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

When the Lord Jesus died on the cross, He also bore our humanity. He died on the cross as a man; hence, our human nature was crucified with Him. In the eyes of God, when Christ was crucified, He was not alone; we were all crucified with Him (Rom. 6:8). Just as Adam's sin involved all those who are included in him, Christ's crucifixion involved all those who are included in Him. Hence, when Christ was crucified on the cross, we were crucified with Him. His crucifixion was our crucifixion.

When the Lord died on our behalf, the record of our sins before God was wiped away in order to deliver us from the punishment of sin. When we died with the Lord, our old man was crucified so that we might be delivered from the power of sin (Rom. 6:6). On the cross the Lord accomplished a vicarious death, and we also were crucified with Him. Hence, we can now receive the forgiveness of sins and be delivered from the punishment of sin and from the bondage of sin itself.

Christ's death is all-inclusive and eternal; it transcends time. All creation is included in Christ. Hence, when Christ died, all creation died with Him and in Him. This is a fact. Everyone who believes in the Lord is joined to the Lord and needs to be baptized into His death in order to be buried with Him and to terminate the old man and everything related to the old man (Rom. 6:4-6).

C. The Cross of Christ Dealing with Satan

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.

John 16:11 And concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been

judged.

Hebrews 2:14b ...that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil.

Colossians 2:15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Galatians 6:14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.

The first creature in the universe to rebel against God and to seek to frustrate God's plan was Satan. He is behind every act of rebellion against God in the universe and is God's adversary. He introduced sin into the world, injected sin into man, and enticed man to commit sins. Therefore, the cross had to deal not only with sins and fallen humanity but also with Satan and everything related to Satan. We need to see that when the Lord dealt with our fallen human nature, He also dealt with the Satan who was in man as well as everything related to Satan.

Satan entered into man when he enticed man to sin. He has been in man since the time of the fall, and his satanic nature is mixed with the fallen human nature. Thus, when the Lord Jesus dealt with man in His death on the cross, He dealt with the Satan who was in man. The Bible says that the Lord destroyed Satan through His death on the cross (Heb. 2:14). Seemingly, Satan was victorious when he entered into man by enticing man to sin. However, this was Satan's downfall, because this gave God the opportunity to deal with him. Satan thought that he could trick man and usurp man by indwelling man as sin, but he was ensnared in man and able to be put under God's judgment and destruction. God judged and destroyed Satan in man, whom Satan had tricked and usurped.

D. The Cross of Christ Releasing the Life of God

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.

The Lord Jesus said that He would abide alone unless He fell into the ground and died as a grain of wheat, but that if He fell into the ground and died, He would bear much fruit (John 12:24). The Lord is the embodiment of God; the life of God is hidden in Him (Col. 1:19; 2:9), but the life of God that was hidden within Him could only be released through His death. Hence, Christ had to die in order for God's life to be released so that man could receive the life of God.

As a result of His death on the cross, the life within Christ was released to produce many grains of wheat so that God's eternal purpose might be fulfilled. This aspect of the Lord's death is for releasing life. One aspect of the Lord's death is for redemption. The aspect of the Lord's death as a grain of wheat, however, has nothing to do with redemption. Rather, it speaks of the release of the divine life from within Him. The Lord Jesus was incarnated as a man to accomplish God's eternal purpose, which is to dispense His life into us so that we may become His many sons, possessing His life, just

as the Lord Jesus possesses God's life. The divine life was once confined within the shell of Christ's humanity. The Lord went to the cross so that the divine life within the shell of His humanity could be released from within Him. His death on the cross destroyed His human shell so that God's life could be released and then imparted into many through His resurrection to make them sons of God and thus accomplish God's eternal purpose. This is the fourth accomplishment of Christ's death on the cross for us.

III. The Application of the All-Inclusive Death of Christ

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

Galatians 5:24 But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.

In our regenerated spirit is the all-inclusive death of Christ. Our temper, our flesh, our old man, our natural man, and all that we are were all-inclusively dealt with in the all-inclusive death of Christ. Now we need to learn how to apply this death by turning to our spirit and remaining there. Remaining in our spirit is also the way to apply the divinity of the Triune God, the uplifted humanity of Jesus with the highest standard, and the powerful resurrection of Christ. By turning to our spirit and remaining there, we enjoy what we have received and now possess. **The cross of Christ today is not on Calvary, but in our spirit.** If your friend gives you an unpleasant look, you do not need to consider how to apply the cross of Christ. You only need to turn to your spirit and remain there. There you will have the enjoyment of the processed Triune God with His divinity, His humanity, His uplifted human living, His all-inclusive death, and His all-powerful resurrection.

To apply the cross to ourselves is to crucify "the flesh with its passions and its lusts," as spoken of in Galatians 5:24. It is easy to think that Galatians 5:24 and Romans 6:6 are speaking of the same thing, that is, the fact of the cross. Galatians 5:24, however, does not speak of the fact of the cross; it speaks of the application of the cross. Romans 6:6 says that our old man has been crucified with Christ. This crucifixion is not something that we have done; it is something that Christ has done. Our old man was crucified when Christ was crucified. This is a fact accomplished by Christ. Galatians 5:24, however, says that we have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts. This is something that we do by the Spirit to crucify our flesh with its passions and its lusts. By the Spirit we need to apply the cross to our flesh and to our fleshly passions and lusts, putting them to death. This is the experience of applying the cross by the Spirit. After we see, accept, and apply the fact of the cross, it becomes our experience.

We must live in our spirit. Only the Spirit can reveal the truth of our co-crucifixion with Christ in our spirit so that we see it as a fact. Furthermore, only the Spirit can turn the objective fact of our co-crucifixion with Christ into our subjective experience. This cannot be accomplished through doctrine. When we live in the Spirit and walk according to the Spirit, the Spirit spontaneously shows us the fact of the cross so that we may have the experience of the cross. To see and experience the cross, we must be in the Spirit and live in fellowship with the Lord through the Spirit. We will experience the

fact that our old man has been crucified with Christ only when we put to death our flesh by the Spirit. Our being in Christ Jesus is a fact that becomes our experience when we are in the spirit (Rom. 6:11; 8:9).

Study Questions

1. What did Christ accomplish on the cross?
2. How can we apply or experience Christ's crucifixion in our daily Christian life?

Weekly Challenge

Sing the song for this week at least once a day over the next week.

Song

I am crucified with Christ
And it is no longer I who liveth,
But it is Christ who lives in me;
And the life which I now live
In the flesh, I live in faith—
The faith in the Son of God
Who loved and gave Himself up for me.

1

And now I'm walking by the Spirit
Step by step, day by day,
O Lord, I love You.
You're the precious One to me.
As I do this and that
Lord, remind me where You're at;
You're in my spirit,
Dispensing grace to me.

2

And now I'm walking by the Spirit,
Marching on toward the goal.
O Lord, Your purpose
Means everything to me.
All self-love I lay aside
For the churches, for Your Bride,
For the fulfillment
Of Your economy.