

Calvary Was Hell In Review

2 Corinthians 5:19-21, *"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."*

Calvary paid the sin debt for every sinner! At Calvary Jesus suffered all the wrath which sin demanded and took upon Himself our judgment. He took our place! Because of the work of Calvary we can be eternally free from the curse of sin!

Matthew 27:45-50 describes the scene, *"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is to say, 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?'"* Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, *This man calleth for Elias. And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost."*

I want to take note of the parallel between the suffering of Christ and suffering of man in hell. One passage is found in Luke 16:22-28. These words of Jesus reads, *"And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment."*

This pictures the suffering that each one of us deserve. But, Jesus satisfied the righteous demands of God's Law and set us free.

1. THE RICH MAN SUFFERED AGONY OF LONELINESS AND SEPERATION

In Jesus' description of *"the place of departed spirits,"* He states that *"there is a great gulf 'fixed' that separates the section of torment and the place of comfort, and no one can ever pass from one side to the other."* There will be no comfort on the torment side of Sheol-Hades, there will never be any offer of help! Hell is a place of loneliness and separation.

Matthew 27:46, *"Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying 'My God, why have You forsaken Me?'"* God, because Jesus was carrying the sin of the whole world, turned His back on His only begotten Son. Jesus died alone and separated from God, the Father. No living person could ever feel the extent of that separation. No one, except lost sinners in heal, will ever feel the depth of the liveness Jesus felt in the hour of being

separated from His Father in Heaven. God was judgment for sin! In the Old Testament we find many types and shadows set forth of sacrifices dying *alone!* The sacrificial lamb, at every Passover, was "*isolated before it was slain.*" (Exodus 12:6)

Jesus faced the death on the cross – *alone!* At that moment He was forsaken by His followers, even His "*inner-circle*" – and God, the Father! *He was alone!* Jesus endured this loneliness and separation in order that we might have Him as our constant Companion. He was forsaken that we might be adopted into the family of God! He suffered lonesomeness that we might have the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. In sickness, disappointments, even death, Jesus has promised to be "*a very present help in time of trouble*" (Psalm 46:1).

2. THE RICH MAN IN HELL SUFFERED SHAME.

Jesus tells us that while the rich man was alive on earth, he "*fared sumptuously every day, but in hell was suffered shame and torment.*" I wonder if we can even begin to imagine of the unthinkable shame of the cross of crucifixion. Jesus, Who had never known sin; Who was "*altogether lovely,*" but was stripped of His garments and hung before the gaze of those milling around the cross.

Jesus suffered our shame, so that now only glory awaits us!

3. THE RICHMAN CRIED, "HAVE MERCY ON ME, AND SEND LAZARUS THAT HE MAY DIP THE TIP OF HIS FINGER IN WATER AND COOL MY TONGUE, FOR I AM TORMENTED IN THIS FLAME."

There is no water in hell! Those who go there will suffer the agony of thirst!

John 19:28 tells us that Jesus made only one request, He cried out, "*I thirst.*" However, even that was denied Him as He was only offered vinegar! Jesus died a thirsty death!

Have you ever been with a loved one who was very ill and heard them ask for water? Water is of great value in that hour. All that was offered to Jesus in His dying hour was vinegar pressed to His fevered lips. "*To die thirsty, is to die doubly!*"

Jesus suffered thirst – so that we might drink of the water of life – eternal satisfaction. Jesus said, "*Whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life*" (John 4:14). He also said, "*He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*" (John 7:38-39).

Jesus suffered the depth of thirst, so that we might have a perpetual spring of water within us! We need never to thirst again, for He "*makes us to lie down in green pastures, and leads us beside still waters.*" (Psalm 23:2). Jesus provided us with a fountain that will never run dry!

4. THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT HELL IS A PLACE OF DARKNESS

Jude 6 refers to hell as "*chains of everlasting darkness.*" This "*darkness*" is God's wrath turned loose on those who have rejected and rebelled against Him.

It was a dark day when the death angel passed through the land of Egypt. It was a dark day when the judgment of God's wrath engulfed Calvary. and the first son of every family - not covered by the blood - was slain. And, it was a dark day when the rich man "*lifted up his eyes in hell.*"

Matthew 27:45 records that "*From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.*" For those three hours, Jesus suffered darkness - and the darkness of the abode of souls after His death on the cross. Supernatural darkness engulfed the whole land for these hours Jesus was dying on the cross - because God was dealing in judgment in His wrath upon the sins of mankind. There was no comfort of Spirit at that time, no angel on hand to console Him.

Jesus suffered darkness, that we might walk in the Light! We can say with the Psalmist, "*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me*" (Psalms 23:4). Jesus suffered the darkness of the abyss that is isolated by the darkness of hell, that we might have Light!

5. THE RICH MAN IN HELL WAS TROUBLED WITH DEEP CONCERN

The rich man cried out in hell, "*Oh, that my brothers come not to this place of torment*" (Luke 16:28). He wanted no family reunion in hell! That concern increases the torment of hell. Mothers will be tormented with the possibility that their children will come to this place. They may be indifferent now, but will be in agony of concern then!

Jesus shows deep concern for earthly family and friends. Note how mindful He was to see that Mary, His mother was taken care of. John 19:26-27, "*When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple standing by, whom He loved, He saith unto His mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith He to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.*"

6. JESUS SUFFERED ALL THE AGONY OF THE SECOND DEATH

Hebrews 2:14, "*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil,*" Jesus took upon Himself "*the seed of woman*" (humanity) in order that He might die in man's place. And 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "*For He - [God, the Father] - hath made Him - [God, the Son] - to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*"

Calvary was hell in review. If Jesus had not been willing to die - we would have to pay the debt of sin our self. We do not have to receive the curse of our sin, if we will only believe and receive Jesus Christ as our Savior. Jesus died for our sins, we are free from their punishment. Jesus is our Substitute!

Consider Calvary, turn from that scene, lifting your eyes heavenward, and you will bless the name of Jesus and praise God for His unspeakable gift to you!