

## Remembering What Christ Did for Us

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**L**OST! Whether the word applies to being lost as we are driving to an unfamiliar destination, a child tragically separated from his parents or the greatest tragedy of all, our being lost spiritually – it is one of the most frightening words in our entire vocabulary!

In SIN, one is lost, without Christ, without hope (Eph. 2:12)! In SIN, one desperately needs a Savior, because he is unable to remove sins on his own. In SIN, we may be deceived into believing this is the good and pleasurable life. In SIN, we are destined to be eternally in a place of torment and punishment.

The story is told of a mother being asked by her teenage son about the terrible scar on her arm. It was very noticeable, very ugly and offensive to some. Finally, the mother explained that when he was very young he had been playing and running near an open fireplace. Before she could get him away, he stumbled over toys and was falling directly toward the open flames. Immediately, without thinking, she leaped toward her son, shoving him away from the fire, falling into the flames herself, her arm landing on the red hot embers. She said, “*Son, that is what caused the scar.*” The son now viewed the “*scar*” as something of beauty, with indescribable appreciation. Question: Would he be able to express his appreciation and love completely? Could he ever fully repay the debt he

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owed to her? Would he ever forget how his mother had sacrificed herself for him? The answers are obvious!

As feeble as our efforts may be, let us walk through the history of time and **remember** afresh what our Lord and Savior has done for us. We will examine this through four viewpoints: (1) What Christ Did Before the Church Existed, (2) What Christ Did to Bring the Church into Existence, (3) What Christ Has Done Since the Church Came into Existence, and (4) What Christ Will Do One Day.

### WHAT CHRIST DID BEFORE THE CHURCH EXISTED

In the opening words of the gospel record according to John we read:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3, 14) [All Scripture references are taken from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.]

The Word (Jesus Christ, the Son of God) was with the Father and the Spirit in the beginning, creating all things.

While our study does not focus on the individual actions of the Godhead, we acknowledge the amazing hand of GOD through the ages, instructing and dealing with all mankind through the Patriarchal and Mosaic dispensations. God spoke through the prophets, specifically foretelling what would happen with the

coming Messiah (Dan. 2:44; Joel 2:28; Isa. 2:2-3; Isa. 7:14; Jer. 23:5; Mic. 5:2 and Zech. 11:12-13 to name but a few).

Notice how Paul spoke of the Godhead's plan (scheme) to redeem man:

And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to **the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.** (Eph. 3:9-11, emp. added)

Paul wrote of when the "fulness of time" was come (Gal. 4:4), God sent forth His Son to pay the price (Acts 20:28), be the propitiation of our sins (Rom. 3:25; 1 John 2:2), offer redemption (Col. 1:13-14; Eph. 1:7), make reconciliation possible (Rom 5:10; 2 Cor. 5:18) to those who will hear and obey Him (Eph. 3:4; Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9).

**Let Us Remember!** God has done SO much to make redemption possible. Christ has given SO much to enable us to have our sins forgiven. The Holy Spirit has done SO much to bring about the reality of our being saved – members of the family of God.

### **WHAT CHRIST DID TO BRING THE CHURCH INTO EXISTENCE**

The words of favorite songs convey our love and awe at the Savior's love and action, *"Why did my Saviour come to earth... Because He loved me so," "He left the splendor of heaven, knowing His destiny..."* God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16), commending His love to us even while we were in sin (Rom. 5:8-9).

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During His earthly ministry, Christ willingly extended compassion and kindness to the lowly and downtrodden. He helped the lame, diseased and rejected ones. He was willing to be with the publicans and sinners.

Christ spoke of the coming kingdom (church) as He taught His disciples. He told them His kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36). His own disciples did not understand the nature of His kingdom.

Jesus told His listeners the church was coming, so near in fact that some of those who heard His voice would not die until it came with power (Mark 9:1).

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus Christ stated powerfully that He would build the church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it.

The inerrant, infallible, inspired and exciting record provides an overview of the establishment of the church, as recorded in Acts 2. The church was built, just as Christ had promised. It was, at that time, in existence. Those on the day of Pentecost were added to the church (Acts 2:47) by the Lord.

To understand the cost of the church, we must emphasize that Christ purchased the church with His blood, on cruel Calvary.

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.  
(Acts 20:28)

Is it even possible for our human minds to comprehend the shame, humiliation, physical torture and agony Christ endured? Pause and grasp a few snapshots of those treacherous hours: (1) the angry mob in Gethsemane, (2) before Pilate and the Sanhedrin, (3) His disciples following afar off, (4) the scourging (also called the

intermediate death), (5) carrying His cross up to Golgotha, (6) being nailed to the cross, (7) being raised up (hung) on the cross, (8) hanging on the cross for six hours, (9) the utter humiliation before His mother and disciples, (10) His words of comfort from the cross; and (11) His death. Then, victory of victories: (12) His resurrection!

Each of these dozen mental glimpses of what took place almost two thousand years ago could command a large portion of time if we examined them thoroughly. While that is not possible, let us at least read again (as if for the first time) the testimony of Scripture concerning these eternity determining events.

**(1) Gethsemane**

Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. (Matt. 26:47-48)

**(2) Before Pilate and Herod**

And the whole multitude...led him unto Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King. And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it. Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man...And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate. (Luke 23:1-4, 11)

**(3) Disciples Followed Afar Off**

And Peter followed him afar off...And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him

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from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things. (Mark 14:54; Luke 23:49)

### **(4) Scourging**

Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him...And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified. (John 19:1; Mark 15:15)

### **(5) Carrying Cross to Golgotha**

And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha...And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him. And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross. (John 19:17; Mark 15:20-21)

### **(6) Nailed to the Cross**

And it was the third hour, and they crucified him...Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him. (Mark 15:25, 32)

### **(7) Hung on the Cross**

And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree. (Acts 10:39)

### **(8) On the Cross for Six Hours**

And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice...And Jesus cried with a loud voice,

and gave up the ghost. (Mark 15:34, 37)

**(9) Before His Mother and Disciples**

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. (John 19:25)

**(10) Words of Comfort from the Cross**

Behold thy mother...Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. (John 19:27; Luke 23:34)

**(11) Christ Died**

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. (John 19:30)

**(12) The Lord's Resurrection**

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay...When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said. (Matt. 28:6; John 2:22)

He could have called 10,000 angels to destroy the world. He could have consumed all enemies of righteousness. He could have...but He died alone, for you and me! The truthfulness of the phrase is evident. But, Jesus made it possible to be reconciled to God through His shed blood on the cross (Col. 1:20).

**Let Us Remember!** Our Lord died, on a rugged cross, for our sins! He was without sin (Heb. 4:15). He paid the debt we could not pay! Let us always keep before our mind's eye the sacrificial, loving and gracious actions of our Lord and King.

## WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE SINCE THE CHURCH HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE

Our Lord is at the right hand of God, reigning and working in our behalf. He is our intercessor (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25).

God is longsuffering with us, wanting all to be saved (1 Tim. 2:3-4). Note the words of Peter in 2 Peter 3:9:

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Consider the generations that have passed (as men count time), the plans unfolded in the fullness of time, the establishment and development of the church throughout the world, and providentially providing mankind with the inspired written Word. Christ said, as He neared the time of leaving earth,

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:26-27)

How blessed we are to possess, to read and to understand (Eph. 3:4) the Word of God:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

God has done so much to enable man to be saved. Yet,



there is coming a time when it is going to be "*too late*." The day of the Lord will come suddenly, without warning, and the earth and all things will be burned up (2 Pet. 3:10).

As we serve and faithfully work for the Master, He is our High Priest who cares and understands the trials and temptations of life we endure.

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:14-16)

Our Lord will never forsake or leave us (Heb. 13:5).

**Let Us Remember!** Not only what He did in the long ago, what He did in the establishment of the kingdom, but what He continues to do even to this day!

### **WHAT CHRIST WILL DO ONE DAY**

The inspired Word of God declares that all will die and after that the judgment (Heb. 9:27). The judgment (also called the day of the Lord, 1 Thess. 5:2; last day, John 6:39-54; day of wrath, Rom. 2:5; the great day, Jude 6) will come as a thief in the night (2 Pet. 3:10). Everyone will appear in judgment (2 Cor. 5:10). The books will be opened (Rev. 20:12-14).

#### **Christ will judge all at His coming:**

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom. (2 Tim. 4:1)

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath

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committed all judgment unto the Son. (John 5:22)

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. (Acts 17:30-31)

### **His judgments will be righteous and true:**

And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments. (Rev. 16:7)

But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things...Who will render to every man according to his deeds. (Rom. 2:2, 6)

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (Matt. 25:31-34)

### **The standard for His judgments will be His**

#### **Word:**

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. (John 12:48)

**Our Lord will give rest, a crown and a mansion to the obedient servants of God, and will present the faithful unto God the Father:**

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. (Rev. 14:13)

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (1 Pet. 5:4)

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. (Rev. 2:10)

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. (Jude 24)

The book of Revelation includes the precious words, "Even so come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20), as it draws to a close. Our souls are thrilled to consider the great day coming when this earthly struggle will be over, and we hear the trumpet sound, and the dead in Christ will rise first (1 Thess. 4:16).

**Let Us Remember!** Our Savior cares for us at this exact moment. He does not want you to be lost and His death to be in vain. Emphatically, we hear His words of John 14:1-3:

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

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And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

### A BRIEF SUMMARY OF OUR STUDY

As a familiar song often sung by our youth accurately states: *“He paid a debt He did not owe, I owed a debt I could not pay, I needed someone to wash my sins away, And now I sing a brand new song, Amazing Grace. Christ Jesus paid the debt that I could never pay.”*

The loving Savior admonished His disciples in the first century to partake of the Lord’s Supper weekly “in remembrance of me” (1 Cor. 11:24-25). May we never forget the cross, the sacrifice and suffering, the extreme price paid for our salvation!

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