

The Work of the Cross

John 19:16-42

Today on the biblical calendar is known as Palm Sunday or the Celebration of the Triumphant Entry of the Messiah (John 12:12-19). From Palm Sunday to the Resurrection Sunday we see the seven most important days in the history of mankind for the redemption of mankind. The Messiah is praised and treated like a King on Palm Sunday and is arrested and beaten on the early hours of Friday morning. This morning we will examine John chapter 19 and the “Work of the Cross.”

The Cross Fulfilled Prophecy (John 19:23-39)

- a. The Divided Clothing of Christ (John 19:24; Psalm 22:18)
- b. The Vinegar Drink (John 19:28-30; Psalm 69:19-21)
- c. The Unbroken Bones (John 19:31-33; Psalm 34:19-20)
- d. The Pierced Side (John 19:34; Zech 12:10)
- e. The Burial of Jesus in a Rich Man’s Tomb (John 19:38-39; Isaiah 53:9)

Psalm 22:14-18 “I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”

The Cross Finished the Payment (John 19:30) What was finished? The work of the cross was God’s means of love, ignited upon Genesis chapter 3 and man’s sinful disobedience. It was displayed in the manger and fulfilled on the cross, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. God fulfills the prayer that Jesus prayed in John 17. The cross gives eternal life for those who place faith in the glorified Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. Paul tells us in Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Colossians 2:13-14 “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, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Three main things that the cross completed.

- a. Prophecies have been completed through the cross. (John 19:36-37)
- b. The payment of sin has been completed through the cross. (Isaiah 53:4-5)
- c. The process to forgive sin has been completed through the cross. (Hebrews 9:22-26)

The Cross Directs Us to the Faithfulness of God's Promises (John 19:38-42) Every time I read the biblical account of Jesus, I'm reminded of the promises to come as result of His death. It's like a good suspenseful book we've read several times, although we know the outcome, it grips us because it has everything to do with us. What are these promises? John 2:19 "Jesus answered them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." What do these promises mean for us? It shows us that everything He said can be trusted, that He will indeed do it. He had to die for our sins, and He did it. He had to be buried for our sins, and He did it. He had to be raised for our redemption, and He did it. Isaiah 53:5 "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:11 "Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities."

Through His pain we are promised the removal of the sting of death! (1 Cor. 15:55-57)

Through His death we are promised death to sin! (Romans 10:10-11)

Through His resurrection we are promised resurrection unto new life! (Romans 6:4)