

## The Forgiveness of God, Part 4

By

Rev. Louis Showers, Sr.  
Goshen, Indiana

Dear Friend, in reflecting upon Christ's death and suffering, we ask today, which death did Jesus die and which death really brought about the saving of repentant sinners? You say, but what a strange question this is to ask, but my dear friend it is a Biblical question that needs to be accepted by us all.

In the books of Romans & Hebrews, the Scripture declares that when Jesus died on the cross, he died once for all and will never ever die again! How we thank the Lord that this is an established fact for all time and eternity.

Rom 6:9-10, "Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God." NKJV

Heb. 7:26-28, "For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself." NKJV

Heb. 9:12-13, "Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption." NKJV

Heb. 10:10, "By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." NKJV

When we hear preaching on the death of Jesus we hear only what we, with human understanding, can comprehend. By this I mean we talk about the injustice in the mock trials of Jesus, and we emphasize his beatings and the other physical torture done to Him. The plucking out his beard and hitting him with a rod while mocking him. They placed a thorny crown on his brow which penetrated his skin causing great pain and then they mocked Him by calling Him a king. Then we tell about the terrible and painful way they beat Him, and after suffering this torment, He, in a weakened condition, was made to carry His own cross to the mount. How He stumbled and fell requiring another man, commanded by Roman soldiers, to help him carry His cross. Then we describe the best we understand of the pain of the nails driven into his body and the terrible agony he experienced when they dropped his cross into the ground. There was also the terrible thirst he experienced and the agony He went through each time He took a breath, having to lift Himself to overcome the pull of gravity. There is much more that can be said here, but the reason we put so much explanation in all of this is because this was all we could see.

*Still we do not understand what pain and agony he experienced* when in the hours of darkness he cried out aloud unto God with "My God; My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:45-46). We heard him cry this, and from the Scriptures in Isaiah 53 we learn that in those three hours of darkness, God his Father poured out His wrath on Jesus. The wrath that each of us deserves for our sin and a price that was sufficient to pay for the sins of all of mankind. That those who that will accept the price offered by Him alone to cover all their sins shall be saved. I have tried to catch some understanding of what that pain had to be like when God the Father beat his own son for my sins, but I must confess, it is beyond my understanding. But that being the case, how thankful I am personally that this was sufficient to pay my debt of sin.

There were two deaths that Jesus experienced on that cross. Physical death and also Spiritual death for in that time of being forsaken by God the Father who poured out his wrath upon his only unique Son, His Son experienced Spiritual death. The word death in Scripture simply means separation from. Physical death is the separation of our bodies and our souls (James 2:26) and spiritual death is the separation of man from God. For the first time in all of eternity, the Son was separated from the other persons of the Trinity. The Bible declares the wages of sin is death. That Spiritual death occurred in the three hours of darkness as he experienced the Father turning His back on Him, the Son might experience the wages of sin in our place so that God can say to each one who receives Jesus as his own personal savior..."I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Dear Friend, that is what Jesus experienced for your salvation. I pray most earnestly that you have made Jesus your own Savior, Lord and God.