

JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR US

1 John 3:16

Introduction: Easter is a grand time of our year. We dress in our finest, we have great music cantatas and dramas about the Cross and the resurrection. We hide eggs and watch children eagerly look for them carrying their little baskets. Do we really have any idea what it means that "*...He laid down His life for us...*"? Have you ever really thought through what was behind all that took place on that Friday on a cross? Here is a MAN who, according to God's Word, died for US. Why would He do that? Was it necessary? If so why was it necessary. What did His death do for us? Think about it.

I. HOW GREAT MUST SINS HAVE BEEN

1. If we start with God's Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20, how many of them have we broken? Did it bother us that we did break God's commandments? Were we bothered enough to stop breaking them?
2. Compare your sinful life and the purity and greatness of the God of all creation.
 - Is there any comparison to God's Holiness, purity, righteousness and ours?
 - We sin, we repent, we worship, we forget, we sin, we repent, we worship, we forget, over and over and over. We are in a horrible cycle of sin.
3. Think about God's loving kindness to you through your lifetime.
 - How He has carried you all your life.
 - How He has been with you in your difficult times.
 - How He has kept you safe during the storms and trials of your life.
 - How He has been so good and merciful to you in spite of your unfaithfulness.
 - Grateful for a moment and soon that passed and was forgotten and back to old sin habits.
4. Now, take a good, long look at the Man on the Cross, Jesus Christ.
 - He is bleeding, dark clouds are rolling down from heaven, clothing the world in darkness.
 - Look up at His face, see the anguish, pain, blood, tears, mouth gasping for breath.
 - Just who is this one in such distress? Why does He have to suffer so? Surely nobody deserves to be treated as this one is being treated. What could He possibly have done to have to die in such a manner.
 - Listen to these words: "This is My Beloved Son who took YOUR sins upon Himself and is bearing their penalty that My righteousness demands for YOUR sins."
 - He is covered in His own blood, plunged into the uttermost depths of grief.
 - **It was for US** all this happened! Jesus Christ did all this for US!
 - The night in the Garden spent in prayer, Pilate's court, the insults, being spit upon, a crown of thorns shoved on His head, scourged until flesh hung from His back, then a heavy cross to carry, then while hanging from that cross hear Him give eternal life to the man on a cross next to Him. Hear Him call to His mother, hear Him call out for something to drink.

- Who would do such a thing to another human being?
 - Whoever did this deserves the same treatment as they have given this man.
- Terrible? Yes. But it had to be done in order that OUR sins could be wiped away and we could be accepted by God.

II. HOW GREATLY JESUS CHRIST MUST HAVE LOVED US

1. Say it with me: **"He laid down His life for ME..." "How greatly He must have loved ME.."**
2. Think about this now:
 - You have been wonderfully made.
 - He has carried you through your life, all that it has been.
 - Not one good thing has He withheld from you.
 - Take a good look at your life. Can you not say that Jesus has loved you?
 - Remember when He saved you? He did it, He called you until you answered.
 - Is there one single thing Jesus Christ has not given you?
 - What did He leave in heaven to come to us?
 - What did He become for us?
 - What did He endure for us?
 - And now, what have you ever given back to Him compared to what all He has given you?

III. HOW SAFE WE ARE

1. Say it with me: **"He laid down His life for me, how safe I am..."**
 - If Jesus Christ dies for us and then God punishes us again for the same thing Jesus died for..
 - If Jesus Christ suffers in our place, then condemns us anyhow, how preposterous!
 - God is just! Jesus died for us and God will never punish a single soul for whom Jesus shed His blood. How shall we be punished if Jesus endured our punishment?
 - Did not Jesus Christ die in our place?
 - If Jesus was not our substitute and He did not die in our place, then HE IS NOT A SAVIOR TO US!
 - But if He was our substitute, if He suffered in our place, then WHO IS HE THAT CONDEMETH?
 - There is not one sin in God's Book against ANY who believe in Jesus Christ.
 - There is not one sin that the Believe can commit that has the power to damn him/her.
 - It was our sins that condemned Jesus, therefore they cannot re-condemn us.
 - That is the believer's security: All has been atoned for even before committed.

CONCLUSION:

1. Did Jesus die for you? If you believe so, then you need no other hope.
2. Say it with me: **"...He laid down His life for me..."**
3. Now, do you believe this?