

JESUS DIED THREE TIMES

Romans 5:10; (Other Texts)

Introduction: Easter is the time of year set aside to celebrate, to recognize, to memorialize, to reflect on the fact that Jesus, who died on a cross, rose from the dead on that third day of being dead. It is a wonderful time for Christians even though the horrible things Jesus went through are remembered, and even re-in-acted. There are hymns about the death of Jesus, poems and even movies depicting His terrible agony and pain before and while hanging on a cross. However if the scriptures are read closely, it will be noted that it was not just ONE death that Jesus died, but there were actually THREE deaths that Jesus died.

I. JESUS DIED TO "SELF" (*Matthew 26:36-45; Luke 22:39-45*)

1. As Jesus was beginning His ministry and was off to Himself, Satan appeared to Him, trying to get Him to change His mind by tempting Him three times but Jesus said "NO" each time.
2. Then one night in a quiet garden, while His disciples were resting, Jesus went aside to pray about what was about to happen.
 - Jesus was heavy hearted, distressed, dejected, weakened, even felt a fear and agony as He prayed and wrestled in prayer to His Heavenly Father.
 - The total humanity of Jesus was shown that night as He wrestled in prayer.
3. Jesus was totally committed to what He had to do for the salvation of mankind, even though there were those who hated Him and had tried to take His life many times and knowing that one of His very own disciples was at that moment betraying Him, Jesus still was determined to do what He had come to do.
4. Three times that night Jesus prayed and was even attended to by an angel but Jesus was determined to go through with the coming horrible death.
 - Jesus in closing His prayer said, "*...nevertheless, not my will but thine be done...*"
5. Jesus died to SELF, His first death which was necessary for the other two which would follow.

II. JESUS DIED TO HIS SPIRIT (*Matthew 27:45-46*)

1. Having been nailed to a cross, Jesus now had to become exactly like any other person in order to redeem mankind from sin. He had to become a "sinful" man, not just sins of A single man, but the SINS of the ENTIRE HUMAN RACE.
2. Sin is what separated Adam and Eve from God and brought death, spiritual death immediately and then physical death eventually. Sin separated one from God and that is spiritual death.
3. Around noon, ALL SIN, the sin of all humanity, was laid on Jesus Christ. Hanging on a cross, Jesus bore, took on the total sin of the entire human race and in doing so, HE BECAME A SINFUL MAN!

4. Immediately upon becoming no longer pure, spotless, stainless, but MORE SINFUL than any other single human being, God, the Father had to leave Jesus, the Holy Spirit was withdrawn and Jesus was now alone.
5. Even nature forsook Jesus as the world became totally darkened. Here hung Jesus, all alone, without God, His heavenly Father, without the Holy Spirit, His heavenly Companion. ALONE!
6. This death, the death of His Spirit was necessary in order that ALL SIN, FOREVER BE PAID FOR.

III. JESUS DIED IN THE FLESH (*John 19:28-30*)

1. Jesus had now died to SELF and to HIS SPIRIT, all was done but for one last death, the death of His flesh.
2. With everything accomplished that He had come to do had been done, making God known to man and making a way of salvation for all mankind, Jesus shouted, "IT IS FINISHED!" and His fleshly body died.
3. The perfect sacrifice for the sin of humanity had been offered and accepted by God, the Father.
4. Nobody "killed" Jesus, He gave up His earthly, human life when He was ready, for many had tried to take it many times before. Jesus shouted that "it's done," bowed His head and gave up His human life.
5. As Creator Jesus finished creating the world on the evening of the sixth (6) day. As Redeemer, Jesus finished/ceased on the sixth (6) day and once again it could have been said, *"...and lo, it was very good..."*
6. It was not DEATH that came to Jesus but it was Jesus who met death and WON!
7. This "third" death was necessary that death and the grave be defeated for all those who believe in Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

1. No single word can describe or express all that was done by Jesus on the cross for humanity.
2. God's demand for sins being condemned had been met and paid.
3. Total obedience to God's Law even to death had been met.
4. God's judgments on sin and been satisfied.
5. Sinners had been set free, the price paid, the righteous demands of God had been met and eternal life for mankind could now be offered.
6. All has been done by Jesus Christ to save man, EXCEPT for man to believe.
- To benefit from all that Jesus Christ has made available, YOU MUST BELIEVE IN HIM!
7. Jesus has done all that is needed for one to have eternal life and a home in heaven, but God, the Father has stated that in order to have eternal life and the heavenly home, one must put his/her entire trust and existence into the Lord Jesus Christ. Have YOU done that?