The Sacrifice
Hebrews 7:23-28

Because of a great sacrifice given long ago, you and I have the _______ of forgiveness and eternal life. Today, we’re examining the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The Word of God opens for us a _______ of love and understanding about God. The Bible helps us to see what _______ lengths God has gone in order to save and bless us. No one will ever love or bless you to the _______ the Father and His Son, Jesus, love you. No one has sacrificed so much to forgive your ______ and to give you the hope of eternal life. To have Christ in our lives means everything.

A sacrifice is an offering up of something __________ to God. Throughout history, God demanded that His people give their _______ in their sacrifices. In ancient times, the patriarchs and the Israelites sacrificed gift-offerings, thank-offerings, peace-offerings, guilt-offerings, and sin-offerings to God. Sometimes they offered oil, wine, or grain; and at other times, they offered __________. They offered sacrifices when they made a covenant with God, and when they pleaded for God’s help at time of battle, and when they realized that they had _________. The Law prescribed exactly what God expected from them, what He accepted, and what He rejected. To be pleasing, Israel offered ________ what God prescribed.

The Law of Moses ____________ the offering of the blood of animals for sin. The one who offered the animal would __________ his sins. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest would lay both hands on the scapegoat and confess the sins of the people. This was a means of transferring the ________ of these sins upon the sacrifice. We today are under a new covenant ratified by the _________ of Jesus Christ who is the sacrifice for our sins. He paid an awful and a painful _______ for our sins. Today, we want to look at His sacrifice.

Our reading today comes from Hebrews 7:23-28. The Hebrew writer is contrasting the _______ of Jesus Christ as a sacrifice as compared with the sacrifices under the Law of Moses.

Under the Law of Moses, the Israelites offered up animal sacrifices, but God had a _______ plan than animal sacrifices. He sent His _______ to be our sacrifice. From the beginning, God had planned for His Son, Jesus, to _________ man and to destroy the works of the devil. But for Jesus to be a sacrifice He must have a fleshly ________. The angel of the Lord told Joseph that Mary would be with child, conceived in her by the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:21 says, “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will _______ His people from their sins.” John speaks of Jesus, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1). Then verse 14 explains, “And the Word became __________, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten
from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John the Baptist saw Jesus coming to him and he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the _______ of the world!” (John 1:29).

The New Testament clearly ____________ that the purpose of Jesus coming into this world was to take away the sins of the world so that we might be saved. This clearly requires a ______ for sacrifice. Hebrews 10:1-10 explains the ____________ between the Israelite offerings under the Law of Moses in the Old Testament and the offering of our Lord Jesus as a part of a new covenant. The birth of Jesus and His becoming flesh took place so that He might have a body to sacrifice for our sins. Because Jesus became ___________ and lived a perfectly sinless life, He was the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself when He went to the cross. This was a voluntary sacrifice because of His ______ for you and for me. The Lord Jesus said, “For this ______ the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My ______ initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father” (John 10:17-18).

The Lord Jesus __________ the horror and the pain of going to the cross. He knew the Romans reserved this punishment for the _______ of people. The Roman Seneca, who lived from 4 BC to 65 AD, was a tutor and advisor to Emperor Nero. In a letter to Lucilius, Seneca asked a serious ________ about the Roman practice of crucifying people. “Can anyone be found who would ______ wasting away in pain dying limb by limb, or letting out his life drop by drop, rather than expiring once for all? Can any man be found ______ to be fastened to the accursed tree, long sickly, already deformed, swelling with ugly weals on shoulders and chest, and drawing the breath of life amid long drawn-out agony? Oh, He would have many ______ for dying even before mounting the cross.” The Lord Jesus was __________ to die just that way, to sacrifice Himself for you and me, out of love.

Let’s remember what Jesus went through from the time of Gethsemane until He died upon the cross. Jesus prayed at Gethsemane with His ______ upon the ground. Peter, James, and John were with Him, but _______. His closest disciples couldn’t stay _______ to pray with Him. He knew what lay ahead. Hebrews 5:7 says he prayed with “loud _______. ” He prayed for the cup to pass from Him; but ultimately, He prayed that the Father’s will be done.

Jesus saw the _________ with swords and spears coming for Him. Judas, his own familiar friend, betrayed him with a _______. His disciples scattered. He was arrested and bound, and taken away like a ___________. They falsely ________ him in a series of three illegal trials, but could find no sin. In the end, they condemned him for blasphemy, because He admitted that He was the Son of God. Matthew 26:67-68 says, “Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, and said, ‘Prophesy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?’” One of his closest disciples, Peter, denied him ______ times just as Jesus prophesied. During the third denial, it was in the very presence of ________.

They took Jesus to Pontius Pilate who could find no ________ to put him to death. Four
times Pilate said that He was __________, but the Jews would not accept that. They called out for His crucifixion. The people who earlier had __________ Him as their Messiah now ________ Him as their king. Pilate sent Jesus to Herod, whose soldiers mocked Him, and treated Him with contempt, dressed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.

Matthew 27:27-30 says, “Then the soldiers of the governor (that is, Pilate) took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet _______ on Him. And after twisting together a _________ of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and _________ Him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ They spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head.” When the Jews insisted Jesus be crucified and Barabbas be released, Pilate had Jesus _____________. They bloodied his back and shoulders and chest and may have wounded other parts of his body. Scourging was a beating that was so bad that he would not have enough __________ to fight them when they crucified Him.

They forced him to __________ the very cross of his destruction through the streets to shame Him. When He could hardly go further, they forced a __________ to help Him. In the presence of all, they ___________ Him of His clothes. They took large ________ and drove them through His hands and feet. They suspended Him on the nails and left Him to die. He watched the Roman soldiers __________ for His prized tunic.

While He was on the cross in anguish, the Jews mercilessly mocked and spurned Him. They despised and rejected Him. Luke 23:35-37 says, “And the people stood by, looking on. And even the ________ were sneering at Him, saying, ‘He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One.’ The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, and saying, ‘If You are the King of the Jews, _______ Yourself!’”

Jesus became the guilt offering, and God laid the ______ of the whole world for all time upon Him. Jesus was the sinless sacrifice. Only a sinless sacrifice of one who had a body could receive the punishment for the ______ of mankind’s sins. In agony, Jesus called out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?” God had to allow a sinless sacrifice to bear the guilt and the punishment of the sins of others so He could ________ humanity from their sins.

The sun was darkened, the earth quaked and shook the foundations. The veil of the temple was ______ from top to bottom. According to Josephus, that veil was 60 feet high, 30 feet wide, and four inches thick. Only ______ could have torn that veil.

Jesus spent ______ long hours on the cross, trying desperately to catch His breath. In the end, the physical punishment caused his ______ to fail and He perished. After He died, a Roman soldier pierced His ________, and out came both blood and water (John 19:34). In keeping with the prophecy, not a ______ of his body was broken.

Our Lord Jesus died for ______ sins; He was innocent and pure. The Father laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Read Isaiah 53:10-11. The Righteous One bore the punishment for the guilt of our sins, so that we could enter into a _________ relationship with the Father. First Peter
2:24 says, “and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might _______ to sin and ________ to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” Everything He sacrificed, He sacrificed for our ____________.

The death of Jesus on the cross was ____________. He gave His head to a crown of thorns, His face to spit and slaps, His shoulders and back to scourging, His side to a spear, His hands and feet to be nailed to a cross, and His body and blood for our sins.

Jesus endured the hatred and jealousy of the ________. He endured the shame and mockery of both Jews and Gentiles. He endured the betrayal of a friend, ________, the denial of His disciple ____________, and the scattering of the other ten. He endured the despondency of His disciples at His death. He rebuked them for not believing the testimony of the women that He was _________ from the dead. His suffering was as personal as can be.

If Jesus took your salvation personally, shouldn’t you? If your salvation was such a serious matter to Him that He would give up everything to save you from sin, shouldn’t it be a serious matter to you? No one has ever sacrificed so much so you could be __________ from the consequences of your sins than Jesus. He bore the punishment that we __________. As a result, He freely and graciously offers to us ____________ from sin and an eternal inheritance with Him in heaven. How can anyone __________ such a great salvation? There’s no such ________ from any other source. If we reject the Lord Jesus, no one else can save us.

Many people don’t like to ________ about sin, but we’ve all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). I confess I am but an old sinner saved by the ________ of God. If it were not for the ________ of Jesus Christ, sacrificed upon the cross for you and me, I would have no hope of forgiveness or eternal life with Christ. Without the blood of Jesus, I could only expect to _______ for my sins myself.

Hebrews 10:26-27 says, “For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a __________ for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.” If we know of the cross but ignore it, we’re ignoring the ________ hope we have of forgiveness or eternal life. Why not come to the cross in faith and embrace the love and the grace of the Lord Jesus?

Remember what _______ sins did to the Lord Jesus. He willingly ________ the guilt and punishment for your sins, so you wouldn’t have to. Don’t you love Him for what He’s done for you? If you love Him, place your ________ and trust in Him and in what He’s done for you. He sacrificed for your sins; and so you sacrifice your sins, you give them up; and you live for righteousness. Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be ______________, that is immersed in water, for the forgiveness of your sins. When you’re baptized into Christ and into His death, His sacrificed blood __________ you from sin and gives you newness of life (Romans 6:3-7). When you’re baptized, the Lord makes you His child (Galatians 3:26-27) and He adds you to His church (Acts 2:47). In Christ, you have all spiritual blessings and the hope of eternal life. So come to Jesus.