

April 8, 2018

The Sacrifice Hebrews 7:23-28

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

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, ‘Prophecy 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.