

Costly Grace
Mark 15:16-41

“With the possible exception of the centurion, I am convinced that those who witnessed the execution of Jesus did not understand what was going on. I simply do not believe that it was immediately transparent to any of the bystanders that what was taking place on Golgotha that day was anything more than an everyday occurrence. They only knew they were watching the execution of a human being at the hands of the Romans. Yet what was happening in that place at that time was nothing less than the most momentous cosmic event imaginable. The epistles of the New Testament, written under divine inspiration, give us the theological significance of this event—it was an atonement by which the wrath and justice of God were satisfied by a substitute.

An atonement is ‘a reconciliation of alienated parties, the restoration of a broken relationship. It is accomplished by making amends, blotting out offenses, and giving satisfaction for wrongs done.’ In short, man, because of his sin, is alienated from God and therefore under His judgment. But man is unable to make satisfaction for his sins. He needs someone to act as His Substitute, to suffer the wrath of God in his place... Jesus died as a Substitute, satisfying the wrath of God that was due to others.” R.C. Sproul

- I. The sacrifice Jesus made for us was a sacrificial offering of marvelous grace that cost him his life. It had to be done! God had no other choice but to allow his Son to suffer in the way he did so that those who believe upon him could have their sins forgiven. Our salvation, i.e., reconciliation through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, means that we have become God’s eternal possession through the purchasing power of the His Son’s blood. *“To accept Christ’s atonement for sin is to acknowledge one’s sin and receive His sacrifice. And not only that but to live a grace-filled life of abundance. There is no more barrier between the believer and God, for they have received Christ’s atoning power and God’s satisfaction of acceptance through that atonement and thus, reconciliation.” Gray*

2 Thess. 2:3

Luke 18:7-8

John 3:16

Eph. 1:7

1 Cor. 6:19-20

1 Cor. 7:23

1 Peter 1:18-19

Romans 5:9-11 *“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.”*

II. The abuse, mocking, and insults Jesus endured on the cross came from men who loathed him and the truth he stood for. In reality, he was enduring Satan's hatred toward God, a hatred that still exists and will continue to exist until God casts him into the lake of fire as an enduring punishment for his rebellion against Him. The magnitude of what Jesus was willing to endure for lost souls is beyond comprehension. The price He paid to reverse the rebellion that took place in the garden was a grace offering of redemption for all who would believe. Guzik aptly states, "*Nobody can read the Gospel accounts of Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion without noticing that Jesus died for the underserving. Nobody did anything to earn such a display of love, but God gave it out of the treasure of His grace. At Calvary, God showed forth the riches of His love in the greatest measure. In contrast, the sin and hatred of humanity was also shown at Calvary, and in the blackest degree. What could be worse than for people to take joy in murdering a God of perfect love and righteousness? At the cross the best of God's love and worst of man's hatred met and did battle, and the empty tomb of Jesus proclaimed that the love and grace of God emerged victorious.*"

Mark 15:16-21

Isa. 52:14

Mark 15:22-32

Isa. 53:12

Ps. 22:16

Ps. 22:18

Ps. 22:6-8

John 3:19-21 *19 And this is the verdict: The Light has come into the world, but men loved the darkness rather than the Light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come into the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever practices the truth comes into the Light, so that it may be seen clearly that what he has done has been accomplished in God.*"

III. The darkness that fell on Jerusalem was one of three miracles recorded by Mark when Jesus was crucified. The other two were the tearing of the veil in the temple and the salvation of the centurion. The darkness symbolized not only sin, evil, and wickedness, but also the separation that occurred between God and his Son when he took on the sins of mankind. The veil being rent in two symbolized holy and blameless believers gaining entrance into the holy of holies to draw near to God through the death, burial and resurrection of His Son. And the miracle of the centurion's salvation, symbolizes the power of light over darkness to draw those who believe upon His Son for eternal life into God's kingdom of light. The power of Christ's shed blood is the only way for man to be delivered from the dominion of darkness into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:13-14). *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him (Jn. 3:1).*

Mark 15:33-41

Ps. 22:1

Acts 6:7

Ep[h. 6:18b-19

1 Peter 1:18

Ga. 3:13

Hebrews 10:19-23 *19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.*