

**BLESSEDNESS OF THE TRUTH: REMEMBERING THE LORD'S DEATH**

**Intro:** Many themes could be brought forward from this wonderful pericope of Scripture: vs. 3 "a great salvation"; vs. 10 "bringing many sons to glory".  
 - But both vs. 14 and vs. 15 speak specifically of the death of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
 - Jesus died that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil.  
 - Jesus died that through death he might deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. We remember the Lord's death.

**I. WHAT CHRIST DID**

- A. The significance of Christ's birth was the he came to die!
  1. In vs. 9, we see Jesus made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death.
  2. In vs. 14, we read that "forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also likewise took part..."
  3. In the Apostle's Creed we are following Christ's humiliation: "dead, buried, he descended into hell."
  4. Jesus came to die: and in the Lord's Supper we remember his death till he comes again.
- B. Why must Jesus die?
  1. The fourth word of the cross: "My God my god, why hast thou forsaken me" is followed by the sixth and seventh word..
  2. Why must God in his Son enter our physical death and lie in the grave?
  3. God's justice demanded it. The sinner must surely die, suffering the wrath of God to the uttermost.
  4. God's truth demands it: the Scriptures speak of the suffering Servant who by way of suffering brings many sons to glory.
  5. Jesus' physical death and burial are an integral part of his atoning suffering; "to make satisfaction for our sins".
- C. Christ's death and burial was like that of a guilty sinner under the wrath of God.
  1. At birth we enter this valley of death to travel through it for the appointed time. Death is the exit.
  2. Death is separation: separation of body and soul, separation of earthly relationships, separation from God.
  3. Christ followed the course of our life here on earth: the life of sinful people.
- D. Christ's death is completely different from ours:
  1. He is the Son of God who has power over sin, hell, death and the grave. He lays down his life.
  2. Death comes to us, he came willingly to death, caused his death.
  3. He is not the victim, but he dies triumphantly. He dies in order to enter his glory. Death loses its sting, the grave its victory.
  4. We are called to remember his death, and we also celebrate it!

**II. ITS SIGNIFICANCE**

- A. Jesus "tasted death for every man (vs. 9)."  
  1. Jesus experienced, went through, took the sting of death.
  2. "For every man." Who is this every? It is a particular class of persons:
  3. He died for the heirs of salvation, the many sons of God, Abraham's descendants, those given to him by the Father.
  4. Jesus as our covenant head, and as our substitute took this sentence of death upon himself that we might live!
- B. Jesus "destroyed him who has the power of death (vs. 14)."  
  1. We must be careful to understand this phrase "him who has the power of death."
  2. Our lives are not at the disposal of the devil: this would make our lives most miserable.
  3. Our times are in God's hand: "the Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord."
  4. The devil, a murderer, the accuser has snared us and has a grip on us in our sins.
  5. Jesus is the One stronger than the strong man who enters his house to destroy him and set us free from his control.
- C. Jesus "delivers those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death (vs. 15)."  
  1. Set free from sin and Satan, we have a right to life and glory.
  2. No longer alienated from God, we have fellowship with God. That separation is ended.
  3. While separation of body and soul still take place at death, it is not a punishment but a gateway to heaven, bliss, glory.
  4. Separation of earthly relationships gives way to a grander relationship, with Christ and all our brothers and sisters.
- D. What is the death of Jesus?
  1. It is a glorification of all of God's perfections: His grace and love, his justice and righteousness, his wisdom and mercy.
  2. It is for us the annulment of our death sentence
  3. It is for Jesus his deepest humiliation: the Son of God hanging between two thieves, cursed, making all the difference!

**III. OUR COMFORT**

- A. Our identity: Children of God
  1. The One who makes men holy and those who are made holy are one family
  2. Christ does not call us stinking vile sinners, but brothers, family, blameless, heirs.
- B. Covenant fellowship with God.
  1. Christ the host bids us to come to his table, a communion table.
  2. We are family, loved by God, and pleasing in his sight!
- C. We are partakers of all Christ's benefits:
  1. We have the forgiveness of our sins, righteousness, and eternal life.
  2. Now we still struggle with sin, but we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
- D. Our lives are now living sacrifices of thanks.
  1. We are lovers of Christ. He is the desire, the joy of our heart. His cross, his honor his name is our delight.
  2. As prophets we show forth the praises of him who drew us out of our darkness in his marvelous light.
  3. As priests, we wave before him the praises of our faith and lives lived for him.
  4. As kings, we rule over our bodies and desires, reproving sin and giving of our life, time, love, our all for the sake of God.