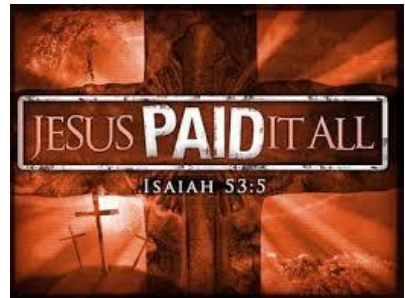


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Lives Associated with the Death of Christ

The 4 gospels recorded the life, death and the resurrection of Christ and some names were also mentioned who were associated with the Lord before his death. There were many lives affected by or were directly involved with the life and the death of Christ. These are rich examples from which we can learn. Let us consider the spiritual lessons from just six of them.



Pontus Pilate - the Governor

Pilate was the governor of Judea with the vested authority to put people to death at that time (not to the Jewish leaders) and to him, Christ was a just convenient political criminal. He gave in to pressure and he compromised to please the Pharisees. He miscarried justice and allowed them to unfairly abuse and unjustly crucify our Lord. He was a coward and a sly politician whose end was serious; he committed suicide with his body thrown into the Tiberius river according to tradition. He missed the opportunity to do right and there were serious consequences.

We need to also examine ourselves if we have also treated Christ as a convenient person for our selfish or worldly aims or benefits. Beware for there are serious consequences if we abuse the gospel or the means of grace. Let us be careful that we do not take the mercy and grace of the Lord for granted.

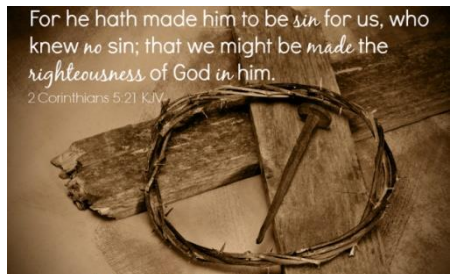
John Macarthur noted that the trials before the Roman authorities started with Pilate after Jesus was beaten. The charges brought against Him were falsified but yet accepted. He was charged with inciting people to riot, forbidding the people to pay their taxes and claiming to

be King. (Lk 23:2) Pilate found no reason to kill Jesus, so he sent Him to Herod. Herod had Jesus ridiculed but he did not want to take the political liability, so he sent Jesus back to Pilate. This was the last trial as Pilate tried to appease the animosity of the Jews by having Jesus scourged. The Roman scourge was a terrible whipping of 39 lashes. In a final effort to have Jesus released, Pilate initially offered the prisoner Barabbas to be crucified and Jesus released, but to no avail. The crowds called for Barabbas to be released and Jesus to be crucified. Pilate gave in politically to their demand and surrendered Jesus to their will. The trials of Jesus represent the ultimate miscarriage and mockery of justice. Jesus, the sinless man of God in the history of the world, was declared to be guilty of crimes He did not commit and sentenced to death by the painful and contemptible process of crucifixion by the sovereign plan of God.

Barabbas – The Substitute for Release

Barabbas probably had not even met the Lord but he was set free because of Christ taking his place instead. Christ was literally the Substitute for his freedom as the Romans had a tradition of setting a prisoner free once a year.

He was a guilty murderer but yet he was released from jail and death because Christ took his place instead. This is the perfect example of what is called the vicarious or substitutionary atonement as given in Rom 5:1-11.



We are all Barabbases in the true sense of the word for Christ died for us as guilty and condemned sinners to hell or on our behalf. Are we mindful of this great debt we owe to the Lord and forever grateful to Him? Do we believe in Him and confess and repent of our sins before the Lord?

Simon of Cyrene- The Cross Bearer

Simon was a foreigner (from a part of Africa) who was there at that time and was commanded by the Roman guards to carry the cross for Christ instead for quite a distance. He did it and it did indeed affect him. It is noteworthy that Mk 15:29 recorded that he was the father of Rufus and Rufus was mentioned in Rom 16:13 and he was saved. Could it be that Simon was saved after the incident of seeing Christ and him carrying

the cross? It is absolutely amazing. Are we willing to take up the cross daily and deny self and follow Christ?

The Two Thieves on the Cross

Calvary had 3 crosses - One died for sin, one died in sin and one died to sin. The thief who was saved treated Christ with respect and acknowledged Him as truly the Son of God and trusted in Him while the other did not and behaved rudely as a guilty sinner. One mocked our Lord and the other humbly defended the Lord and believed and chided the other thief, "have you no fear for God?" The Lord told the good thief "today you shall be with me in Paradise". He was literally saved in the last hours of his earthly life.

The Chinese word for "come" is

來 . It has the Chinese

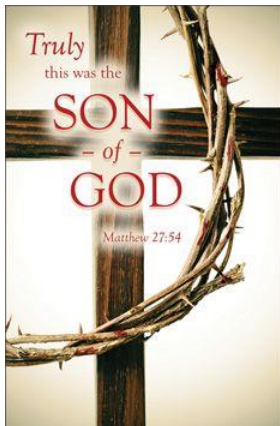
character of 2 men (人), one looking to the cross and the other looking away. Which one represents you tonight?

I pray that we will all humbly seek Christ as our Lord and God and repent of our sins before it is too late for there is no other way.



The Roman Centurion

This was an important but anonymous Roman military officer who was there at the crucifixion scene and he recognized Christ as the Son of God.



He was the equivalent of an army Captain managing about 100 soldiers. He made a sobering comment in Lk 23:47 showing to all that he was truly converted in his heart, that Jesus is the righteous Son of God. Noting his profession of faith, many believed that the death of Christ saved him from his condemnation. He was not afraid to say that openly that Jesus is truly the Son of God. Do you also dare to share and proclaim openly to others that Jesus is God and he died for your sins?

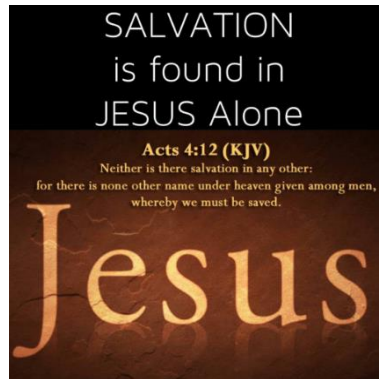
Christ's death in crucifixion accomplished completely all that God's justice required as payment for sin. Our Lord Jesus Christ accomplished the atonement required by God the Father by means of His incarnation and His death on the Cross. With His justice satisfied, God is said to be propitiated so that His wrath is taken away and He expressed His love toward man while fully upholding righteousness. He grants eternal life to anyone who believes in Christ as his or her Saviour and Lord. He will keep the elect that He has redeemed, safe and secured for all eternity. Believing in Jesus Christ is placing our trust in Him with faith and repentance for the gift of eternal life. Understanding the atonement of Christ enables us to see the true character of a loving, holy and just God at work. It provides insights into His character and nature that provides us an unshakeable foundation for our faith.

Will we dare to acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God before our time is up or will it be too late?

Conclusion

When you look at Calvary, what comes to your mind? Do you worship and seek Christ who willingly took our place on that cross? We can only be saved from our depravity and sins and escape the fires of Hell if we acknowledge our sinfulness and trust fully in Christ as our Lord!

Do you recognize yourself as one who is guilty and spiritually dead and dying in your sins? Do you see yourself convicted of what you truly need and of Who Jesus Christ is or could be to you? Jesus is Who and What you need in your life, and we need to come to trust in Him right now. Will you come to believe and trust in Jesus and do what that centurion and wise thief did? Will you call on Jesus as your Lord and God and repent of your sins and ask Him for divine pardon and salvation today? Something to think and pray and act upon soberly.



Jack Sin

Lessons in Godly Prudence from a Wise King

Studies into Ecclesiastes

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04

APRIL 2021

- 2 Good Friday: Who killed Jesus? (Luke 23:1-26)
- 4 The Implications & Impact of the Resurrection (1Cor 15:1-21,51-58)
- 11* The Matters of the Heart (Eccl 1:1-18)
- 18 The Meaningless of Labour under the Sun (Eccl 2:18-26)
- 25 The Opportune Time for Everything (Eccl 3:1-12)

05

MAY 2021

- 2 The Beauty of Two in God's Economy (Eccl 4:4-21)
- 9* The Management of the Tongue (Eccl 5:1-13)
- 16 The Mindless Pursuit of Wealth (Eccl 6:1-12)
- 23 The Basis for True Spiritual Discretion (Eccl 7:1-17)
- 30 Reverence and Fear of God (Eccl 8:1-13)

06

JUNE 2021

- 6 The Intervention of God (Eccl 9:7-18)
- 13* Speech and Danger of Laziness (Eccl 10 :12-20)
- 20 Wise Counsel for Young and Old (Eccl 11:1-10)
- 27 Gospel Sunday: Fruitful Aging and the Chief Purpose of Man (Eccl 12:1-13)

Memory Verse

Luke 23:40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying,
Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same
condemnation?

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor Jack speaks tonight on “**Who Killed Jesus?**” (Luke 23:1-26). The Lord’s Supper will be served.
3. Pastor Jack speaks to a group of Poly students on Sat, 3 Apr at 10 45am via Zoom on “**Facts and Applications from the Resurrection of Christ**”.
4. Pastor Jack speaks on Resurrection Sunday Worship Service 4 Apr 2021, 10am on “**The Implications and Impact of the Resurrection**” (1 Cor 15:1-21, 51-58).
5. Sunday School classes continues in church after the Sunday worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - New Testament Survey – Dn Choo Siang
 - Studies in Numbers – Dr Kwong Leen
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren.
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The Apr prayer list is available from Dn Choo Siang.
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will meet on Friday, 9 Apr at 7.30pm in church on the study of 2 Samuel. Do come and join us for a time of learning God’s Word.
9. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com.
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**
