

Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022  
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm  
Website: [www.sovereignhopebpc.org](http://www.sovereignhopebpc.org)  
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / [jacksin710@gmail.com](mailto:jacksin710@gmail.com)  
Elder Loke Tat Luen: [tloke822@gmail.com](mailto:tloke822@gmail.com)

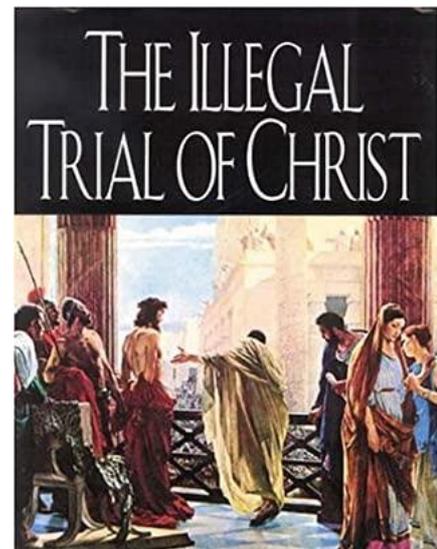
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## THE IMPACT OF THE ANGUISH OF THE CROSS

Christianity is founded on the life and death of Jesus Christ. The life of Christ ends in the climax of his suffering and death at Calvary. Chronologically, we know more about the day of Christ's death than the birth of Christ. The Passover was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Nisan (March / April). Because we know that Christ was betrayed on the night of Passover, we can date that Christ was crucified in the year A.D. 30.

### 1. The Unfair Trials of Christ

The Bible records one of the greatest injustices on earth. In Luke 23, we see Christ in the hands of his enemies. In v.1, the multitude of Jews led him to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate governed Judea, Galilee and the southern part of Israel. The multitude came to Pilate and accused Jesus with three charges: he subverted the nation, prevented the people from giving tribute to Caesar, and proclaimed himself a king. All these charges were false and yet there were many who believed them to be true. In Matthew 26:57 Caiaphas the High Priest, an already biased religious official, examined Jesus. This man was the son-in-law of the previous High Priest Anna, from whom he had obtained the office through bribes and family relations. Israel at that time was ruled in external matters by the Roman Empire, and the domestic affairs were handled by the Jews themselves (a council of 71 men, called the Sanhedrin). The Jews had autonomy to rule, except in one matter, they did not have the authority to sentence a man to death. Thus, the Jews brought Jesus to see Pilate as recorded in Luke 23, as he was the Governor with authority to decide on Jesus' fate so to speak.



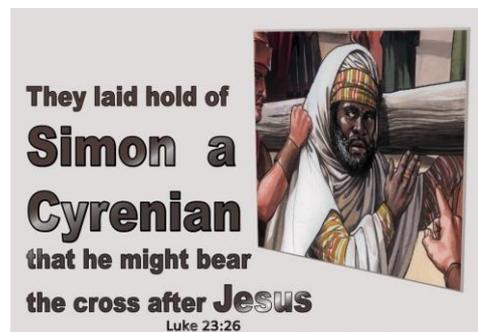
In Matthew 26:60, the chief priests found two false witnesses against Christ. However, their testimony did not agree with each another and yet their false accusations were generally accepted by the religious authorities (Mark 14:56-59). Pilate who had a clash with the Jewish religious authorities previously, was careful not to displease them this time. The unfair trial of Jesus was clearly unjustly conducted, for it was hastily held throughout the night, and the charge was accepted without proper investigation and hastily. The greatest miscarriage of justice in history certainly took place here. Our Lord was not given a proper hearing and it was a kangaroo court of pre-determined injustice by the religious elite. Interestingly Pilate himself declared three times that he found nothing wrong with Jesus after examining him.

Yet he capitulated and gave in to the pressure of powerful men and he agreed to put Jesus to death for political reasons to please them. However, all these actions were possible by God's higher sovereign hand. Jesus said on the cross, "*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*" (Luke 23:34) Though this was the sincere prayer of Christ, it did not absolve the crimes committed by the Jews and Pilate. They will be accountable for their actions one day for our God is Just and Righteous.

In Luke 23:18-19, we are introduced to a guilty man called Barabbas, a man who committed gross crimes of murder. Pilate thought the Jews would be moved to condemn Barabbas instead of Jesus. But the hardened Jews chose Jesus to die on the cross instead and asked for Barabbas to be released. For the sake of political convenience, Pilate gave in to the pressure and acceded to their request, a mis-carriage of justice to say the least.

**Pilate represents a worldly man who had contact with Christ but never came to the saving knowledge of God. Does your attitude to Christ resemble that of Pilate's?**

But there was another man called Simon the Cyrenian (v. 26) who was tasked to carry Jesus' cross. He was a black man from a place called Cyrene which is modern-day Libya. We do not know why he was there. The cross weighed at least 90kg, thus to carry it over a long distance was unthinkable. What is more, Jesus was flogged and was in no state to carry the cross all the way to Calvary. Mark 15:21 tells us that Simon the Cyrenian was the father of Rufus. This same Rufus is recorded as Paul's fellow worker in Romans 16:13. In other words, could Simon the Cyrene have been regenerated and converted through his experience with carrying the cross of Christ and looking to him as his Savior? He would have much later then led his family to know and follow Christ. **Are you willing to be like Simon, to take up your own cross daily, deny self and follow Christ, witnessing for Christ as a true disciple?**



## 2. The Agony of Christ on the Cross

Jesus suffered immense pain and agony on the cross at Golgotha (Calvary). We see from the biblical account that Calvary had 3 crosses. There were also two robbers being crucified alongside Jesus (Luke 23:32). One was saved; the other was not. At Calvary: one died **to** sin, one died **for** sin and one died **in** sin. (Can you figure out which is who?) Hope and salvation come to those who truly fear God and hence seek Christ as Lord and Savior. One of the thieves came to salvation at the eleventh hour of his life. He believed in Christ as the Son of God and in the afterlife. He believed that Christ is God and that He will return; yet the other did not.



Your life on earth, and your choice to acknowledge God will determine your eternal destiny. Among the many so-called decisions we make in our lives, none is more significant than that of our faith in the Lord Jesus as our Saviour and our religious convictions. It concerns who God is and what your relationship is with Him. The Lord never spoke to the other robber who reviled him; he knew not Christ and was lost in eternal condemnation.

### 3. The Impact of the Death of Christ

Another person of interest is the centurion (Luke 23:47). This centurion is the equivalent of a captain in our armed forces. His duty was to ensure the convicted criminals did not escape. This man had witnessed a countless number of crucifixions, for it was recorded that Pilate crucified nearly 20,000 men. But this event was unique. Christ's death was accompanied with signs from heaven – a darkness and an earthquake. The veil of the Holy of Holies of the Temple was split from top to bottom. Even some men arose from the grave. From Christ's testimony on the cross, this man glorified God and acknowledged the deity of Christ that He is truly the Son of God and Christian historians believed that he was truly saved.

We know in the book of Acts, of another centurion, called Cornelius, who was also converted by the work of the Spirit (Acts 10:1-10).

### Conclusion

**As we reflect upon the atoning death of Christ, which one of these who encountered our Lord represent your response towards the death of Christ? Are you like Pilate, or Barabbas, or Simon, or the robber who blasphemed God, or the robber who acknowledged God, or the redeemed centurion?**

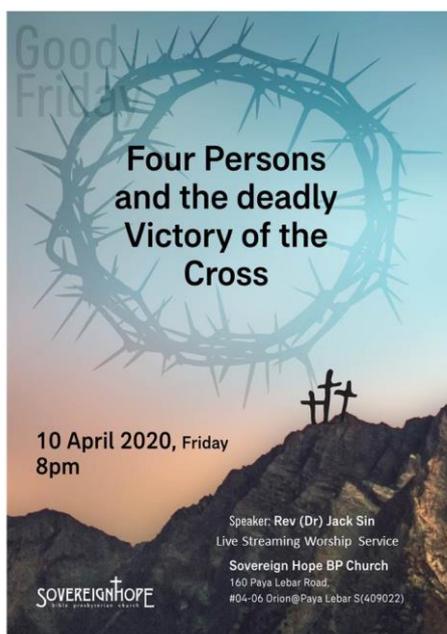
**Will you submit your life to Christ today in humble faith, trusting in Him as your Lord? Be saved from your sins and eternal condemnation. Cry out to God and humbly repent of your sins and seek to follow Jesus faithfully now till the very end of your life.**

No greater sacrifice ever took place in history than the Son of God giving His life for the sons of men so that they can be the sons of God.

Something to think about and act upon soon before it is too late

Jack Sin

*(Read John MacArthur, The Murder of Jesus, Grace to You, 2000)*



## **“A Christian Scholar Conquering Compromise”**

**by Jack Sin**

**5 April 2020**

**(Live Streaming Worship Service)**

Text: Daniel 1: 1 - 21

Consider the 3 P's:

### **(A) Problems at Hand: v 1-7**

- Daniel was in his teens when he landed in a foreign land with his 3 friends in Babylon during the 70 years of exile.
- Exposed to dangers:  
New place, knowledge, diet & culture and they were given new names, but they stood firm.
- God sometimes allows His people to go through such an experience to test them and see if they will succumb to compromise.

### **(B) Purpose of the Heart: v 8 - 16**

- Daniel was a purpose - driven man who desired to honour God and he did not compromise his Christian convictions.
- He purposed in his heart, determined to have strong Biblical Christian Convictions in his life i.e. not eat food offered to idols.
- In v8, Daniel honoured God by his humble frame of mind, using a tactful & respectful approach in communication with those in authority.
- 2 Timothy 3:10  
Paul told Timothy "But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience " The life purpose of the apostle was known to his disciple, he was committed to the work of the gospel to the Gentiles.
- What is your purpose in life? Do people know you?
- What is the chief end of Man? Not to make lots of money and enjoy ourselves forever

Ans: To Glorify God and to Enjoy Him Forever (Westminster Shorter Catechism question 1)

**(C) Promotion from Heaven: v 17 - 21.**

- God gave Daniel & his 3 friends knowledge & skills in all learning & wisdom.
- They were strong in their Biblical Christian Convictions and were rewarded by God.
- They stood close to God. They were honoured & served the King as a blessing from heaven.

**Conclusion:**

Am I standing in the same league as Daniel & his 3 friends, honouring & serving God above all without compromise in this world?

If not, what should I do?

- **A**cknowledge that you are a sinner who cannot save himself /herself.
- **B**elieve in God and repent of your sins.
- **C**onfess that Jesus Christ is the **ONLY** way to salvation

Sis Kin Kheng

**SOVEREIGNHOPE**  
bible-presbyterian ministry

**APR - JUN 2020**  
WORSHIP PROGRAMME

**- THEME -**  
EXPLORING AND APPLYING  
PROPHETIC LESSONS  
IN OUR LIVES  
(STUDIES IN THE  
BOOK OF DANIEL)

**- EVERY SUNDAY -**  
WORSHIP  
SERVICES  
AT 10AM

**- CONTACT -**  
Pastor Jack Sin  
+65 91160948

**- APRIL 2020 -**

5th Christian Scholar Conquering Compromise (Dan 1:1-21)

10th\* **Good Friday Night Service (8pm):** 4 Persons and the Deadly Victory of the Cross (Matthew 27:20-54)

12th **Resurrection Sunday (10am):** Why We Fear Death No More (1 Corinthians 15:1-21, 51-58)

19th Lessons from a Royal Dream (Daniel 2:17-49)

26th Fighting Fire – God’s Way (Daniel 3:1-30)

**- MAY 2020 -**

3rd An Earthly King exalts the Heavenly King (Dan 4:19-37)

10th\* Handwritings on the Wall Explained (Dan 5:11-31)

17th The Prayerful Prime Minister (Dan 6:1-28)

24th The interpretation of a revelation from God (Dan 7:1-28)

31st A Vision of the Past, Present and Future (Dan 8:1-27)

**- JUNE 2020 -**

7th The Supplication of a Godly Saint (Dan 9:1-24)

14th\* Deep Eschatological Insights (Dan 10:1-21)

21st The End Times Revealed (Dan 12:1-13)

28th **Gospel Sunday:** The God I cannot ignore (Rom 1:1-16)

## Memory Verse

*Rom 5:11* And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

## Announcements

1. We thank God for many who are participating in our Facebook Live streaming worship service which will continue till early May or as otherwise informed.
2. Rev Jack Sin speaks tonight on “4 Persons and the Deadly Victory of the Cross (Matthew 27:20-54)
3. Rev Jack Sin speaks on Resurrection Sunday on “Why We Fear Death No More” (1 Corinthians 15:1-21, 51-58)
4. Synchronized prayer meeting continues on Wed at 8pm.
5. The Christian Perspective of the COVID 19 virus article is being translated into 7 languages (ie Chinese, Tamil, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Spanish, Kannada, Korean). Those who are interested may request from Pastor.
6. Those who would like to serve the Lord in any area in the church, please see the Pastor or the Deacons.
7. Those who have a testimony to share may submit to Pastor for the weekly.
8. Pastor is still available for counselling via WhatsApp, Email or Mobile.
9. Love gifts to the church by cheque can be made payable to: **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church.**

For direct bank transfer to the church account, please contact the treasurer, Dn Lim Choo Siang.



*Thank God for a reverential worship service last Sunday chaired by Bro Joseph Wee and Pastor Jack preached via Facebook Live Streaming.*

