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THE DEATH OF JESUS

BY: AL GORMLEY

"Ye do shew the Lord's death till he come,"
I Corinthians 11:26.

I begin to think of how few times I have gone through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Bible as far as going verse by verse. We frequently talk about the death of Jesus Christ; however, what we are picturing in the Lord's Supper is the most important event that ever took place in this world.

After God had created Adam and Eve, Adam sinned against God. Immediately God slew an animal and clothed them with skins. That is teaching us that the only possible way that God would accept us is through sacrifice and through the shedding of blood. That is what we are picturing in the Lord's Supper. If you will study all the way through, for four thousand years in the Old Testament, there was always sacrificing--animals being slain. Abel slew a lamb. This goes on through Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all those people; the slaying of animals upon altars and shedding blood.

Then we see during the Levitical period of Moses, the Levitical offerings, the lambs, the bulls, the goats, the doves, and all the shedding of blood. It must have been awfully important. That was the only way God would accept anyone--through sacrifice and through the shedding of blood. All of those sacrifices, the blood of bulls and goats never took away one sin.

Every sin that the Lord's people had, the saints of God that trusted the Lord, every one of those sins met the Lord Jesus Christ at the cross. He had to die for all of the sins of all of his people; past, present and future. *"For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God,"* Romans 6:10. Jesus Christ, the one sacrifice for sin, did what nobody else could do.

Therefore as we observe the Lord's Supper, we are saying by participating in this, as members of His church, that I have believed and trusted in Christ that he did this for me. I believe he was broken and bruised for me, that he shed his precious blood for me.

Matthew 27 has to do with the approaching death of Jesus Christ. *"When the morning was come, all the chief priests."* I want you to notice

who is doing this: *"and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death,"* verse 1. Who was it that wanted him to die? I know that God prophesied his death over and over again in the Scriptures, but the religious people that were in charge of the temple, they hated him. The Lord said they hated me, they hate you. These people, though they were religious, had never been born again. They weren't saved, and yet they were religious.

"And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor. Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented [regretted] himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders," verse 2. It is a sad thing today when the Lord's people will deny the Lord for a day's salary, that's terrible.

"Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood." What does he mean there when He says, I have betrayed innocent blood? Well, the blood is the life. Judas is saying Jesus Christ was not guilty, he does not deserve to be condemned and be put to death. That is innocent blood. Over and over, the Bible speaks of the blood as precious, not pure. The emphasis is on the preciousness of the blood, not purity. The body was pure. Everything about him was pure. But the blood was his life, and that life was eternal. *"For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off,"* Leviticus 17:14. He could have lived forever. *"And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself,"* verses 4-5. When you stand before the Lord one day, if you have sold the Lord out for just a few dollars, you are going to regret that you did not think enough of your Lord to put Him first in your life.

"And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the

potter's field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued." What price do you value the Lord Jesus Christ? What is He worth to you? To those of us who believe, He is very precious. He is more precious than money, or gold, or anything else. *"Whom they of the children of Israel did value,"* that's how much Jesus Christ meant to the children of Israel. He certainly ought to mean more to us than thirty pieces of silver. He ought to be our all in all. *"And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me,"* verses 6-10.

"And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest," verse 11. He is King of the Jews. He shall rule upon the throne of his father David. He was born for that reason.

"Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born," John 18:37. And he is going to be King. They mocked him at the cross, but one day friend, He is going to be King. He is King now. But He is going to reveal to all people that He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is King, He is my king and I want Him to rule over me. I want Him to reign in my life. He is my King. That's great, isn't it, to be a child of the King? He is a great king.

"And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing," verse 12. There is a time to keep your mouth shut. He was not guilty. He did not have to defend himself, God would defend him. *"Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord,"* Hebrews 10:30.

"Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? And he answered him to never a word; inasmuch that the governor marvelled greatly," Verses 13-14. *"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth,"* Isaiah 53:7.

You know some of us get the idea that if we are not guilty, we have to put a stop to it. If you are not guilty, God will stop it. No one can hurt me, as long as God is for me. Do you believe that? No one can hurt my family, as long as God is with me. You see, when you are guilty, that is when you get into problems. People accuse you when you are guilty.

"Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would. And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas.. Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?... They said Barabbas. Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" verses 15-17, 21-22.

We are picturing the death of our Lord Jesus Christ when we partake of His Supper. He is not dead now. That is a big statement. I can go to my loved ones and look at the headstone and they are dead. Their body is rotten, their bones are decayed, all flesh is gone. They are dead. But Jesus is not dead. Don't ever trust in anybody who is dead.

"When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, ...He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus...And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb," Matthew 27:57-60. The only ones that I know who trusted anyone who was dead was Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus. They trusted in Him, though He was dead; but they believed in the resurrection too, didn't they? Don't you think Joseph really rejoiced in the one that he had buried was alive. He knew He was going to live. Jesus said, *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,"* John 2:19.

"Pilate saith unto them, what shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified," verse 22. Let me ask you something. If you are without Jesus Christ, what are you going to do with this man, Jesus? You either accept Him or reject Him. If you don't accept Him as your Savior, what makes any difference to you whether He was crucified or not.

"And sitting down they watched him there." There are some, that when we observe the Lord's Supper and picture the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, sit and watch people partake of it. They may say, "why can't I partake of this?" No. There is more to it than this. People die because of things going on in the Lord's Supper. *"For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sick-ly among you, and many sleep,"* I Corinthians 11:29-30. *"And sitting down they watched him there,"* verse 36.

I have to ask that question. What are you going to do with Jesus Christ? What have you done with Jesus Christ? You may say, I know I'm saved, I know I'm saved. Listen: the only way you can know you are saved is that you have repented, you have changed your mind, you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior and you follow Him. That is the evidence that you have been saved.

"When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of

this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children," verses 24-25. That is a serious thing. *"His blood be on us, and on our children."*

And yet the very same ones that said that, God saved later on. You may say, how do you know? *"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain...- Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ... Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls,"* Acts 2:23, 38, 41.

Oh! The great mercy of God. God came into this world to save sinners. Did you know, the more sins that a person has when God saves him, the more they will love Him. Jesus said *"I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little,"* Luke 7:47.

"Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified," verse 26. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John give the account of the death of Jesus Christ. Seven times He is declared to be the innocent lamb of God. *"Why, what evil hath he done?"* Mark 15:14. *"I find no fault in this man,"* Luke 23:4. Pilate *"said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him:"* Luke 23:22. *"I find in him no fault at all,"* John 18:38. *"Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him,"* John 19:4. *"I am innocent of the blood of this just person:"* Matthew 27:24. *"Truly this was the Son of God,"* Matthew 27:54. Jesus Christ is the only person who was without sin.

"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him," Verses 27-28. To be stripped is an embarrassing thing for any person. *"He endured the cross, despising the shame,"* Hebrews 12:2, but He did not open His mouth. He did that for me, He did that for you. We are showing forth his death when we partake of His Supper.

"And put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had plaited a crown of thorns." He did not deserve a crown of thorns; He deserves all the crowns that God's people can give to Him. There are five crowns in the Scriptures. We are going to take all those crowns one day and cast them at His feet. He is deserving, every last one of them. But what did the world do? They crowned Him with a crown of thorns. Thorns are a symbol of the curse. Genesis 3:18, "They put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him." Can you see that? Here is the one that every last one of them would bow before one day. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord," Philippians 2:10-11. *"And they bowed the knee before him, and mocking him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!"* Verses 28-29. Do you know why they did that? They did not know Him. They would not have done that, if they had known who He was.

"And they spit upon him." Do you like that? That is one thing that will make people madder

than anything else, is for someone to spit on them. How many of you have ever had anyone spit on you. I have seen little children go around spitting on people. Oh me! He was the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, *"and they spit upon him,"* verse 30. And He did not open His mouth. Do you know what He could have done? He could have wiped them out. Couldn't He? But that was not the purpose for which He came. *"I came not to judge the world, but to save the world,"* John 12:47.

"And took the reed, and smote him on the head," verse 30. Try to get the picture now, we show forth His death. A crown of thorns upon His head, spitting upon Him, *"and took the reed, and smote him on the head." Did he deserve that? No, He didn't.*

"And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him," verse 31. They hated Him. *"They hated me without a cause,"* John 15:25. They had no cause to hate Him. He went about doing good. He had never done any harm to anybody. He healed the sick, raised the dead, cleansed the lepers, caused the blind to see and they hated Him without a cause. Why did they hate him? *"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin,"* John 15:22. *"I am the light of the world,"* John 8:12. He convicted men of their sins. And we need to convict men of their sins. We ought to live our lives according to what we say, and what we do ought to convict the world of their sins. Light makes manifest, and when we live our lives in a way that convicts, the world will hate us.

"And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross. And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull, They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink," verses 32-34. That is prophecy fulfilled.

"And they crucified him," verse 35. Now in His crucifixion, they put nails in His hands and nails in His feet. *"They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots,"* verse 35. That was prophesied in Psalm 22:18, *"They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture." A thousand years before Jesus Christ died, God knew exactly what was going to take place. I am glad that I can believe and trust in a God that knows exactly what is going to take place. He knew what Jesus Christ was going to say, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* verse 46. It was prophesied. *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* Psalm 22:1. He knew He was going to thirst. *"My tongue cleaveth to my jaws,"* Psalm 22:15.

I know my God has told me things that have never happened yet, but it is going to happen, just like He said. Do you believe that? Do you believe there is a literal lake of fire. I'm telling you my friend, there is a literal lake of fire, an everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord. *"The fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched,"* Mark 9:44. Body and soul will be cast into hell. The escape from that is in Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

The only way that your sins will be lifted off you, is to trust that they were on Him when He

died on the cross of Calvary. There is no second chance. There is no way to get out from under that except in Christ. "Without shedding of blood is no remission," Hebrews 9:22.

"And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots. And sitting down they watched him there," verses 35-36. Suppose you had been there. We could have lived at that time, "and sitting down they watched him there." Can you see the people sitting around watching Him? There were three men on the cross. "Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left," verse 38. They watched the one in the middle, Jesus Christ, they saw Him on the tree. They saw Him nailed to the cross. They saw what was going on. "And sitting down they watched him there."

Did they trust Him? No, they did not. There was one that trusted Him, "And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To Day shalt thou be with me in paradise," Luke 23:39-43.

Do you know why Jesus did that? I believe Jesus did it to show that salvation is entirely by grace through faith. The thief could not do one thing; he could not be baptized, he could not do one work. Salvation is on the inside. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation," Romans 10:10. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure," Philippians 2:13.

"And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS," Matthew 27:37. By comparing the four gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John we see the full heading, THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. They were mocking Him. They did not believe He was King; they said, this is what He says He is, King of the Jews. Let me tell you one thing, everything He says He is, He is. He says He is the Son of God, He is the Son of God. When He says He is the King, He is the King. When He says He is coming back again, He will come back. When He says He is building a home for us, that is what He is doing. Whatever He says, you can believe it. That's faith isn't it?

"Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left. And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days," verses 39-40. You know where they got that. "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up", John 2:19. They thought He was talking about the temple that they worshiped in. But Jesus spoke of the temple of His body. His body was the temple of God. Was it not? Your body is the temple of God. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the

temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are," I Corinthians 3:16-17. Destroy this temple and it will be raised up one day, that's because of Jesus Christ who died for me.

"Save thyself, If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross," verse 40. Do you believe He could have come down? People say, I don't believe He could have. I believe He could. I am talking about Jesus Christ, "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard," Hebrews 5:7. But aren't you glad He did not come down. If He had come down friend, we would have been lost, those of us who are saved.

"Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him," verses 41-42. "If he be the King of Israel," Romans chapter 11 says all Israel shall be saved. They would not have opportunity, if He had come down. He was there for a reason. He died for a purpose, didn't He?

"He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God," Verse 43. They knew He said He was King, they knew He said He was the Son of God, but they rejected Him. They did not believe Him. These are chief priests, scribes and elders, religious people. These people knew about the things that were written in the Old Testament concerning Jesus Christ. "No man knows the things of God save by the spirit of God which is in Him."

"The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth," verse 44. Both of those thieves were reviling Him and saying the same thing. Both of them hated Him and they were hanging on the cross. In just a few short hours they would be dead. And they were still reviling him... but God who is rich in mercy saved that thief. "One shall be taken, and the other left," Matthew 24:41. That is just the way God does things.

The Jewish day starts at 6:00 a.m. Therefore the sixth hour would be 12:00 noon. "Now from the sixth hour." He was put on the cross at nine o'clock in the morning and the sixth hour would be twelve noon. He was there until approximately three o'clock in the afternoon. "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour," verse 45.

Now why was this darkness here? First of all, I think the sun did not shine. But there was a greater darkness than that there. "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all," I John 1:5. When God turned His back upon His Son, He was not just in literal darkness from the sun, He was separated from God. When the Lord says that sinners will be cast into outer darkness, He is not talking about not having any light that you can see with your eyes. He is talking about separation completely from the God who is light, outer darkness.

"There was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lam-asabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Verse 46.

Why did He use those words? "My God?" Over and over in the scripture He says, my Father, my Father, my Father. Why did He say, My God, my God? Well I will tell you what I think that it means here. He became sin for us who knew no sin. For those last three hours, evidently God turned his back upon His Son. He treated His Son as if we would have been dying in hell. He treated His Son just like He would treat a lost sinner going to hell. And the everlasting Son who had been with the Father in all eternity, God forsook Him, turned his back on Him.

As a child of God, "he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," Hebrews 13:5. He forsook His only begotten Son, but He said I will never leave you, nor forsake you. That is a great promise.

"Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost," Verses 47-50. Dismissed His Spirit--no man has ever done that. "I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" John 10:17-18. He had life within Himself. He could lay it down and He could take it again. You don't have that power; I don't have that power.

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost," John 19:30. What was finished? What was the purpose for him being there? He "bare our sins in his own body on the tree," I Peter 2:24. He was broken and bruised for you. God was satisfied with the sufferings, with the death of Jesus Christ. The law was satisfied that day. Your sins were upon Him, and God was satisfied with that punishment. Jesus being God, knew it was finished. "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost," Luke 23:46.

Jesus Christ did not go to hell. Jesus Christ suffered for my sins and bear them in His own body on the tree. He shed His blood that day. His blood redeemed me. It was the price that was paid. When He said, Father, I commend my spirit. It is finished. He died unto sin once. He does not have to die any more. The Holy Spirit can't die to start with. It was the Son of God, the man Christ Jesus that died there, on the cross of Calvary.

Notice what happened! No death ever like this. "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom," Verse 51.

What did that veil stand for? Hebrews says it is symbolic of the flesh of Jesus Christ. Every offering, every sacrifice in the Old Testament had never opened up the way unto God. The high priest had to go in for himself and had to go in for the people. But every time that veil (4" thick) had to be turned aside and take the blood of bulls and goats and offered unto God once for himself and once for the people. When he came out that veil fell right back down where it was again signifying that the way into the most holy place, which was heaven itself, had not been opened up until Jesus died. When Jesus died and satisfied God's justice for his people, the veil was rent from top to

bottom. God took hold of that veil, ripped it, from top to bottom, signifying now that there is no more sacrifices needed. God has opened up the way into glory. You can go through that door, through Him.

No wonder Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life,"* John 14:6. There isn't any other way except Jesus. He is the one that opened it up. *"And the earth did quake, and the rocks rent."* God was in control here. No death like that before. When one of us die, there won't be any earthquakes, no rocks ripping open. But the death of Jesus Christ was something that was unnatural.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit," John 12:24. He was speaking of himself. Jesus Christ was a corn of wheat put in the ground and it brought forth fruit. *"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose. And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many,"* Verses 52-53.

"He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once," I Corinthians 15:5-6. The only reason they came out of the graves, *"Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and the life,"* John 11:25. He brought them out. One grain put in the ground, 500 came out. That is the firstfruits. If they came out, you can expect to come out too.

"Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God," Verse 54. Jesus Christ did not leave any doubt. There is no doubt that Christ died, was buried and rose again.

"And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him: Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children. When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple," Verses 55-57.

You will have to think about the faith of this man. He took a dead man off the cross. He was still trusting in a dead man. That is the same thought Abraham had when he was going to kill Isaac. He was trusting that God would raise him up. *"He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered,"* Verse 58.

"And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus," John 19:39-40. Nicodemus helped Joseph with the body of Jesus Christ. Sometimes we need to compare Scripture with Scripture. *"He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre. Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre*

be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead:" Notice this little statement. *"So the last error shall be worse than the first,"* Verses 58-64.

They realized they had made a mistake. *"Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch,"* Verse 65-66.

"In the end of the sabbath," [that's Saturday at 6:00pm] *"as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week"* [The first day of the week began at 6:00 p.m. Saturday night, not Sunday morning.] *"came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay,"* Matthew 28:1-6.

In the Lord's Supper, we picture the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. In baptism, we picture the burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is His death, but He was also buried and raised--that is what we picture in baptism. But in order to be a fit subject for baptism, you have to first experience His death.

When Jesus died, He died for me, He was buried and was rose again. Once you have that in your heart, once you know that when Jesus died, like the thief said, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom, you must trust Him as Lord, and King and Master over you, repenting of your sins, saying I know what I deserve. Once you die by faith in Him, you understand that Jesus Christ died for sinners and by faith I'm trusting in Him that He died for me. My sins were upon Him. That is the reason He died. When He shed His precious blood, that is why He shed it, to redeem me from my sins. He is my Saviour; so I died with Him.

Once you do that, you can declare, in a picture, the like figure, that Christ died for me, was buried and rose again. You also declare that Christ died for me and you have a desire to serve Him; then you can go into the waters of baptism and say, I have repented, I have turned away from my sins and I am raised (in a picture now) to walk in newness of life. That has already been settled before you go into the waters of baptism.

You realize that Jesus Christ came from the grave. You are trusting in Him that He died for me, was buried and was raised again. He is going to raise this old mortal body by His Spirit that dwelleth in me. We picture in baptism that if I die and they bury me six foot under that I am coming out of there. Why? Because Jesus Christ died for all of my sins, He is my Saviour, He is my Lord, I am going to live for Him. One of these days I am going to live with Him.

Baptism is the way into His kind of assembly, the Lord's New Testament church. You do not have baptism until you are first saved by the grace of God and then you submit to baptism by the authority of His kind of church.

(This message is available as CD/Tape #2232. To obtain a copy, email us at mail@bryanstation.com)