

1. Moving out of Psalm 19 for the next two weeks

- A. Since we don't have our own building for a "Good Friday" service = that speaks of the cross
- 1). The event before the resurrection and Easter – want to look at the cross today – Psalm 22

2. An amazing prophetic Psalm

- A. We have a detailed account of Christ's crucifixion
- 1). Written 1000's of years before Christ came to earth in the incarnation
 - 2). Written 100's of years before crucifixion was even invented
 - a). Yet we have this account that sounds like it's written by an eye-witness of a crucifixion
 - b). It is accurate and detailed – here we have the words, thoughts, injuries of Christ

Question: What do prophecies like this prove? That the Bible is the Word of God

- A. Only God could write such a book – filled with 100's of prophecies – fulfilled with precision

3. This is a Psalm that is meant to be handled reverently

- A. Here is almighty God leaving glory and the worship of the heavenly hosts
- 1). To come to earth and be abused by those He came to save
 - 2). There is nothing like this in any other religion – God becoming a servant to those He created
- B. I found myself overwhelmed again and again as I studied this – knowing He did this for me
- 1). I felt as I stood before this Psalm I was standing on holy ground

4. The organization of this Psalm

- A. I am going to break this into two sections
- 1). Christ's experience on the cross
 - 2). Christ's accomplishment through the cross
- B. This is a lot of verses so I will only *pull out the highlights* – so it doesn't become a series

Ps 22:1-8 (ESV) My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? ⁽²⁾ O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. ⁽³⁾ Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. ⁽⁴⁾ In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. ⁽⁵⁾ To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. ⁽⁶⁾ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. ⁽⁷⁾ All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; ⁽⁸⁾ "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" (Stop there. We'll pick up more as we move on)

I. CHRIST'S EXPERIENCE ON THE CROSS

He was Forsaken by the Father

Ps 22:1-2 (ESV) My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? ⁽²⁾ O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

1. Here we see how Christ was feeling during His suffering

- A. He is feeling isolated and abandoned
- For the first time in all of eternity He is not experiencing the love of the Father
- 1). He is experiencing His wrath instead
- B. So Christ in His anguish cries out – and remember He is a man on the cross – the incarnation
- 1). I think we think it wasn't that hard – He was God

He was also man and the experience of the cross was brutal and devastating

Is 53:5 (ESV) But he was pierced for our transgressions; *he was crushed for our iniquities...*
- C. As He is being crushed by this firestorm of wrath – He finally cries out
- 1). Notice **"My God"** – why not His usual address? "My Father" – Why?
 - a). This indicates the separation that sin has caused – and why God must turn away

- 2). God must hide His face from Him because MY sin and YOUR sin was upon Him
- D. Think of the cost to the Father – He couldn't run to Him – couldn't help Him
- 1). Even as His Son is crying out – He must continue to pour out His wrath upon Him? Why?
- a). If the Father rescues Christ from the cross – He can't rescue us from our sins
- 1a). The full extent of wrath for every one of my sins must be poured out on Jesus
If there is any penalty remaining then I have to pay that and I end up in hell
- Thought:** Here we have a picture of God's justice – how a holy God must respond to sin
- A. Some people think God will overlook their sin when they stand before Him on that day
"I'll just talk it over with Him. He will understand"
- B. But if God couldn't overlook man's sin when it was placed on Jesus
Do you think He can overlook the sin that remains on those who reject the work of Christ
- C. The cross teaches on the day of judgment there will be no mercy – ONLY justice
- 1). There was no mercy at the cross – there couldn't be – sin demands wrath
- 2). There will be no mercy shown to the law breaker who stands before God in judgment
- a). Now is the day of mercy – divine patience – for those who don't know Christ
- 1a). God has graciously given you another moment to come to your senses
- 2a). Another breath that you may repent and embrace His son by faith and be rescued
- C. I've said this so many times – let me say it again because it is powerful and simple
- 1). Your sin will be judged in one of two places – these are the only two options
They will be judged either on Christ at the cross or on you in hell for all of eternity
- a). Christ bore the pain so you don't have too!
- Transition:** So Christ was isolated and alone in this time of intense anguish
- A. Rejected by God – Next we see He was also abandoned by His friends

He was Abandoned by His Followers

Ps 22:11 (ESV) Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *and there is none to help.*

1. I believe this is referring to His followers who all ran when Christ was arrested

- A. Again this is Christ in His incarnation – this affected Him
- 1). Those He had given so much of His life too – now abandon Him in His greatest trial
- 2). This increased that mental suffering He was going through

Transition: Isolated, forsaken by the Father, abandoned by those He loved

- A. But there is more - the emotional torment heaped on Him by the crowd He came to love

He Was Rejected by The People He Came to Save

Intro: We find this described in many verses

1. The crowd that was watching were absolutely brutal in their treatment

Ps 22:6–8 (ESV) But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. ⁽⁷⁾ All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; ⁽⁸⁾ "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

- A. **But I am a worm** = Expresses how the crowd was viewing Him at this point – with contempt
- 1). **Worm** = Expression of reproach – used of a disgusting maggot
- B. **And not a man** = Speaks of how inhumane His treatment had been
- 1). He'd been treated like an animal by these animals = spit on, flogged, beaten until unrecognizable
- 2). By the time He went to the cross He was a bloody pulp

Isaiah 52:14 (NLT) But many were amazed when they saw him. His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man.

a). Yanked the beard out of His face – struck Him again and again with rods

C. **All who see me mock me** = Beating Him to a pulp was not enough for this cruel crowd

1). They mocked Him as He hung there – they mocked His trust in God

Ps 22:8 (ESV) “He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

D. **They open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.**

1). This may be referring to the noise of the crowd as they yelled their ridicule and curses

2). This scene was horrific – this was man at their worst

Thought: Abandoned by the Father and His friends – all that is left is this mocking, jeering crowd

A. Who are acting like a pack of bloodthirsty beasts – this Psalm refers to them as dogs

1). Not puppies – but wild dogs – scavengers – filthy, dirty, rabid, vicious, dangerous

Transition: Forsaken by the Father. Abandoned by His friends. Surrounded by a bloodthirsty crowd

A. The emotional pain is intense - overwhelming

B. Next we see the unbearable physical pain He was experiencing

The Physical Pain

1. We see the cause of the pain

Ps 22:16 (ESV) ... they have pierced my hands and feet—

A. Again this is 100’s of years before crucifixion is invented – prophetic accuracy = God’s book

2. The description of the pain

Ps 22:14–18 (ESV) I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; ⁽¹⁵⁾ my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. ⁽¹⁶⁾ For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet— ⁽¹⁷⁾ I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me; ⁽¹⁸⁾ they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

A. **Poured out like water** = utter exhaustion, His life was being poured out for the sinner – you and me

B. **All my bones are out of joint** = as He hung there and became physically weak

1). The weight of His body pulled the bones out of their sockets adding to the excruciating pain

C. **My Heart is melted within my breast** = God’s wrath was poured forth like fire upon Him

1). It crushed Him – it overwhelmed Him

The heart the very seat of vitality was melted like wax until it finally killed Him

“The fire of almighty wrath would have consumed our souls forever in hell; it was no light work to bear as a substitute the heat of an anger so justly terrible.”

D. **My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws**

1). At this point there is no strength left – He is suffering extreme dehydration

a). His body is being tormented at every level – in every single part

E. **I can count all my bones** = His emaciated, dehydrated body, stretched out on the cross

You could see Jesus bones protruding through His skin

F. He had become a spectacle – **They stare and gloat over me.**

1). Because of His physical condition – but also because of His nakedness

They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots

1). They took His clothes – He suffered the humiliation of hanging there naked – This WAS GOD!

“Our Lord Jesus was stripped, when he was crucified, that he might clothe us with the robe of his righteousness.”

Transition: Unimaginable emotional and physical agony – How did He continue on?

A. NEXT section – very instructional

II. CHRIST'S RESPONSE TO THE PAIN OF THE CROSS

He prayed

1. Throughout this whole ordeal He was continuously crying out to God

Ps 22:2 (ESV) O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

- A. He prayed during the day – first 3 hours of His crucifixion – while it was still light
- B. He cried out during the night – Last 3 hours when God was pouring out His wrath upon Him

- 1). Darkness descended upon the land = signifying judgment
- 2). I believe this darkness was so dark you could feel it – total blackout
Saw this already in God's judgment on Egypt – 9th plague: Darkness

Ex 10:21–23 (ESV) Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, *a darkness to be felt.*” ⁽²²⁾ So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. ⁽²³⁾ *They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days...*

- 3). This was miraculous – 3:00 pm – God turns daylight into night

Transition: So Christ was praying the whole time – you see Him praying in v. 11, 19, 20

- A. But there is silence from heaven – NOTHING! Sin upon Him broke fellowship with God
- B. We go through this don't we – trial – heavenly silence – Why?
 - 1). God is working on our faith – our endurance – maturing us – strengthening us
- C. What do you do when prayers seem to go wanting? Let's see what Christ did

2. He told Himself the truth and that fed faith that persevered

- A. You can't let your emotions control you in times of trial – you MUST THINK!
 - 1). You must apply the Scriptures or you're done – you will go down, down, down

HE REMINDS HIMSELF ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF GOD

He may be silent right now but that doesn't change the truth

Ps 22:3–5 (ESV) (He's crying out and there is nothing but silence. Now watch how He handles that) **Yet (here are facts)** you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. ⁽⁴⁾ In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. ⁽⁵⁾ To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

- A. **“You are holy”** = That explains why this silence is necessary
 - 1). With man's sin upon me you must turn away
This work of redemption cannot be accomplished if you did come to my rescue
 - 2). Every trial we go through is necessary – God never brings needless pain into our lives
1 Pet 1:6 (NIV) In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while *you may have had to* suffer grief in all kinds of trials.
 - a). Each of our trials is necessary for our growth – for are maturing
 - b). God is changing areas that might destroy us down the line – Trust Him when it gets dark
- B. **“You are enthroned”** = Trusting in sovereignty – God you're still in control
 - 1). The silence doesn't mean you've abdicated the throne
 - 2). Just because things seem like they are out of control – they are not!
 - a). Just because you don't understand what you're going through – God does
It is all being conducted by a loving divine hand – for His glory and for your good
 - 3). There is always a good reason – and Jesus locks on to that – this is worth it

Point: This truth inspires faith – endurance

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- 1). He is still in charge – His planning is perfect just like He is – I will trust Him
 - C. **“In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them”**
 - 1). He recalls the faithfulness of God in the history of Israel
 - a). When they trusted – they were delivered
 - b). Therefore keep trusting – persevere - eventually these circumstances will end
 - 2). We think trials go on forever – but they don’t – when they accomplish their purposes they end
1 Pe 5:10 (ESV) And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.
 - D. **“In you they trusted and were not put to shame”**
 - 1). God honors faith – faith will not be put to shame
 - a). Faith that honors Him – trusts Him even in difficult times – God honors that
 - 2). Indeed Jesus would not be ashamed – God didn’t let His faith on the cross be disappointed
 - a). He did not let the grave have the victory – He raised Him up on the 3rd day

HE REMINDS HIMSELF OF THE RECORD OF GOD IN HIS LIFE

Ps 22:9–10 (ESV) Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother’s breasts.
⁽¹⁰⁾ On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother’s womb you have been my God.

Intro: The crowd is mocking Him – “Mr. trust in God. Where is He now when you are in trouble?”

- A. He recalls God’s track record in His own life: From the womb God has been with Him
 - 1). We know it goes way back before the womb – but this is Jesus as a man - incarnation
 - a). Jesus looks back – from the womb you have always taken care of me
Therefore I know you won’t stop now!
- B. We can all say that can’t we – He has a perfect track record in my life
 - 1). I haven’t always got what I wanted – I have always got what I needed
 - 2). It hasn’t been easy – I’ve experienced some crushing - devastating trials
 - a). But now I look back and see what they’ve all accomplished - I’m thankful

Thought: What a lesson – Jesus is discipling us from the cross

- A. His emotions are contrary – He can’t trust them right now
 - 1). He turns to truth to control His response – trusting in God’s character – His sovereignty
 - a). Those things that are true regardless of how He felt
- B. Look at the end of verse 15 – the extent of His trust in God’s sovereignty
Ps 22:15 (ESV) ... *you* lay me in the dust of death.
 - 1). This is all a part of your perfect plan – I’m not just a victim of circumstance - unlucky
 - a). There is so much strength in that
 - 2). When I remember my trial is a part of God’s perfect plan it energizes me
 - a). This is for my good – He promised that
 - b). So work your eternal purposes out in me and through me – be glorified
 - c). Don’t let this pain – this opportunity be wasted – maximize its effectiveness

Transition: What have we seen?

- A. Christ forsaken by God. Abandoned by friends. Rejected by those He came to love
 - B. We’ve seen the incredible emotional and physical pain He’s experiencing
 - C. We’ve seen how He has endured this – Prayer and faith that is inspired by truth
 - D. We have to move quickly here because of time – just highlights
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III. THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE CROSS

Ps 22:22–29 (ESV) I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: ⁽²³⁾ You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! ⁽²⁴⁾ For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him. ⁽²⁵⁾ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him. ⁽²⁶⁾ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever! ⁽²⁷⁾ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. ⁽²⁸⁾ For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. ⁽²⁹⁾ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

1. He speaks of His resurrection

A. From the cross – facing death – He says “I will tell of your name to my brothers”

1). The grave won’t end this – this is really just the beginning! It’s on now!

2. He calls the Jews to embrace what God is doing through the cross

Ps 22:23 (ESV) ...All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

A. The Jews who put Him on the cross – now Jesus reaches out to them

1). There is forgiveness – embrace this – see what God was doing at the cross

Don’t reject it – stand in awe of it

3. He calls to the gentiles to embrace this work of God

Ps 22:27 (ESV) All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

A. What happened at that cross has reverberated throughout the world

To the ends of the earth and will affect families of every nation in the world

4. He calls to every class of people to embrace this

Ps 22:26 (ESV) The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD!

Ps 22:29 (ESV) All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship...

A. Rich, poor. Jew, gentile. Afflicted, affluent. The work of the cross is sufficient for all

1). And the work of the cross is necessary for all

5. He calls to the people who reject the work of the cross – warns them

Ps 22:29 (ESV) ...before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

A. Families in every nation on earth will worship – they will bow

B. What about those who don’t! They still bow! For them it happens after death – when it’s too late

Php 2:10 (ESV) so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

1). What a message to all! Receive what happened on the cross

Bow now because you will bow – do it when it can change your eternal trajectory

6. He calls to His people to promote this work

Ps 22:30–31 (ESV) Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; ⁽³¹⁾ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

A. How does the Gospel and the work of the cross go out to all these groups of people

1). One generation tells the next – one neighbor tells those in the neighborhood

Co-workers tell co-workers – students tell students

2). God has placed you where He has for a purpose – not just to earn a paycheck

a). He can give you the money you need to live in any way

He’s placed you where you are for eternal purposes

1. We've seen Christ's experience

- A. Forsaken by God, abandoned by friends, rejected by those He came to love
- B. We've seen the incredible emotional and physical pain He's experienced
- C. We've seen how He endured. Through prayer and truth inspired faith

2. Let's close this up with what the believer's response should be

- A. This should do something to the believer who gaze upon this great love shown for us
 - 1). That the one suffering like this was Almighty God come to die in our place
And that this suffering was because of our sin – my sin – put upon Him
 - 2). I will live because He died – not because of anything good in me – ALL HIM!

3. Let's close this up with a call to those who may be unbelievers

Either sitting here or listening to the live stream or downloading this message on the internet

- A. Christ died so that you may live – He suffered God's wrath so you could experience His love
- B. Have you taken advantage of this work? Do you know Him – NOT do you know about Him?
Jn 17:3 (ESV) And this is eternal life, *that they know you* the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
 - 1). That word KNOW is very intimate – it speaks of a relationship with the Father and His Son
 - 2). You can know a lot about Him but not know Him – you can love truth but not love Him
- C. Example: Witnessing this Friday at the spectrum Sam asked a young man
“Do you know about President Obama?”
 - 1). The young man was able to rattle off a bunch of facts about him – quite impressive
 - 2). “So you know a lot about Him.”
“What would happen if you went up to the White house and knocked on the front door?
“Would they let you in?” “No”
“Why, because you don't know him. You know a lot about him but there is no relationship”
 - a). If his good friend went up and knocked he would get in because he knows him
 - 3). That's what heaven is like – those who get in are not those who know a lot about Jesus Christ
They are those who know Him personally – who are in relationship with Him
- C. He died on the cross so you can enter into a real loving relationship with the one who created you
 - 1). So the sin that required wrath could be removed and replaced with love
 - 2). Don't run from love – don't run from the only one who can rescue you