

Saturday, August 1, 2015 - Were You There?

There are several variations to the lyrics but, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful songs to sing to focus our minds upon the Lord's pain, suffering and sacrifice is "Were You There?" (hint, hint [Ron Hayes...](#))

Think on the words below...

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Ohh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the cross?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the cross?
Ohh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they nailed Him to the cross?

It is obvious that we were not physically there for the events listed above but that does not mean we can't reflect on and be moved by our Saviours show of unselfish love for humanity.

I would like to suggest a few passages to you this morning which bring in focus exactly what our Saviour did for us...

Philippians 2:5-11 - 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Romans 5:6-11 - 6 For while we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet perhaps for the good man some one would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him. 10 For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, shall we be saved by his life; 11 and not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 - 23 For I received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread; 24 and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, This is my body, which is for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 In like manner also the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood: this do, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord's death till he come. 27 Wherefore whosoever shall

eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh, eateth and drinketh judgment unto himself, if he discern not the body.

Matthew 26-27 - Pay particular attention to chapter 27, verse 26 which states, "26 Then released he unto them Barabbas; but Jesus he scourged and delivered to be crucified." Do you understand what scourging is?

-The prisoner is stripped of His clothing and His hands tied to a post above His head.

-This is a short whip consisting of several heavy, leather thongs with two small balls of lead attached near the ends of each.

- Remember the Jews had an ancient law prohibiting more than forty lashes.

-The heavy whip is brought down with full force again and again across Jesus' shoulders, back and legs. At first the heavy thongs cut through the skin only.

-Then, as the blows continue, they cut deeper into the subcutaneous tissues, producing first an oozing of blood from the capillaries and veins of the skin, and finally spurting arterial bleeding from vessels in the underlying muscles.

-The small balls of lead first produce large, deep bruises which are broken open by subsequent blows.

-Finally the skin of the back is hanging in long ribbons and the entire area is an unrecognizable mass of torn, bleeding tissue. When it is determined by the centurion in charge that the prisoner is near death, the beating is finally stopped.

- The severe scourging, with its intense pain and appreciable blood loss, most probably left Jesus in a pre-shock state. Moreover, hematidrosis had rendered his skin particularly tender. The physical and mental abuse meted out by the Jews and the Romans, as well as the lack of food, water, and sleep, also contributed to his generally weakened state. Therefore, even before the actual crucifixion, Jesus' physical condition was at least serious and possibly critical.

- Then our Lord and Saviour is forced to carry His cross to the Hill of Golgatha, to be nailed and hung til death.

Can I suggest to you this morning that these are not thoughts which should only be brought to our remembrance each week when we partake of the Lord's Supper but this show of complete love should guide our lives each and every moment we are here on this earth.

Does the death of Christ move you to love Him?

John 14:15 - "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

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