

Week 15
101/264

Transforming Daily
“... *He was already dead* ...”
John 19:33

Believe it or not, some scholars and theologians debate and argue over whether or not Jesus Christ actually died. Some say that He was just sleeping. Some say that He was just unconscious. Some say that, essentially, He ceased being Jesus before He was crucified (Oversimplified, it is the second part of a two part theory that speculates Christ's deity came at His baptism and left Him before His crucifixion). When you think about it, it seems like more time (and reason) is spent trying to disprove the actual biblical events of Christ, by some people, than it would take just to accept them (by faith).

For me, and I attribute it to God's grace 100%, it is easier to believe the same Bible that tells me there is a Christ when it tells me that He died than it is to believe the report of someone who says that they believe there is a Christ because of the Bible, but don't believe that same Bible when it says that He died (what a mind bender). In other words, some folks use a double standard based on reason over faith rather than faith over reason to justify why they don't or won't believe Scripture in one place yet willing to do so in another.

It is absolutely essential for salvation that Christ have died. He was and is the sacrificial Lamb of God. He was born to die. Peter says that He was slain before the foundation of the world. Think of it in these terms. If the wages of sin is death and Christ did not die, but was unconscious or sleeping, the debt still remains unpaid. How can anyone claim to be saved if there was no propitiation for our sins toward God? Thanks be to God that Christ did indeed pay the debt with His sinless life in substitutionary atonement on the sinners behalf!

One of my professors in seminary used to say, “Without the crucifixion there is no salvation, and without the resurrection there is no eternal life.” What do you believe? Do you believe that Christ literally died? Do you believe that He was literally buried? Do you believe that God literally raised Him from the dead? Do you believe that He is coming again? Do you believe that those who believe will live eternally in heaven? If so, then you have to believe that when the Roman soldiers were taking the men off the crosses, when they came to Jesus Christ, the Lord's anointed, the Lamb of God, He was already dead (somebody praise Him!).