**R766\_(R76) Rumination for 13 Oct. 2019**

The **T**heme: **The Crown of Thorns**[[berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head,* Mt. 27:29

The **T**hots:

1. **The Symbol that was Platted for Christ. Mt. 27:29**

 *And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head*

1. It was a symbol of the soldiers’ **T**wisted mind to mock Jesus!

 *They stripped Him …and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on His* ***head****.* Mt. 27:29, NIV

1. It was a symbol of the soldiers’ **T**orture of the innocent Victim.

 *They spit on Him, and took the staff and struck Him on the* ***head*** *again and again.* Mt. 27:30

1. It was a symbol of the sinners’ curse – the **T**horns in the crown. See #B below.
2. **The Symbol of the Curse Pronounced:**
3. On **S**inning Mankind.

*Cursed is the ground for thy sake...****thorns*** *also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee.* Gen. 3:17, 18

1. On **S**tubborn Israel.

 *Upon the land of my people shall come up* ***thorns*** *and briers;* Isa. 32:13

1. On **S**inful Gentiles.

*For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations* (Gentiles)…Isa. 34:2

***Thorns*** *will overrun her citadels, nettles and brambles her strongholds.* Isa. 34:13

Therefore, *all have sinned*, and *there is none righteous, no, not one*! Rom. 3:23, 10

1. **The Symbol Placed on Christ.**
2. Jesus **B**ore the curse of sin on the cross. Gal. 3:13a
	1. The **C**rown of thorns was a symbol of the curse of the law that man was not able to obey.

 *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.*

* 1. The **C**rucifixion was another symbol of the curse of the law – *for it is written…*

 *Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:* Gal. 3:13b

 *For he that is hanged is accursed of God.*  Deut. 21:23

* 1. **C**hrist wearing the **C**rown of thorns and **C**rucified on the **C**ross bore our **C**urse. See below.
1. In His own **B**ody, Jesus bore our sins on the cross. I Pet. 2:24

 *Who His own self bare our sins in His own* ***body*** *on the tree*

* + 1. In order to **D**ie for our sins, Jesus took upon Himself a body.

 *Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith… “a* ***body*** *hast thou prepared Me”* Heb. 10:5

* + 1. When He **D**ied on the cross, the veil (curtain) in the temple was rent in two:

*At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.* Mt. 27:51, NIV

 Signifying that *a new and living way* (has) *opened for us through the curtain, that is, His* ***body*** Heb. 10:2

1. With this, a new **B**ody is now formed, having broken down the partition between Jews and Gentiles.
2. It **C**omprises of **R**econciled and **R**edeemed Jews and Gentiles in the one body. Eph. 2:16

 *And that He might reconcile both unto God in one* ***body*** *by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby*

1. The **C**hurch is now His one body, be they Jews or Gentiles, all having been baptized into the one Spirit.

*For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one* ***body****--Jews or Greeks…* I Cor. 12:13, NIV

1. **The Symbols of Personal Remembrance.**

New Symbols are now given to the Church and to us personally – no more the symbol of the thorn, but…

1. The Symbol of the **B**read – it is His **B**ody given for us.

 *Take, eat: this is My* ***body****, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.* I Cor. 11:24

1. The Symbol of the Cup – it is His **B**lood shed for us.

*This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you.* Lk. 22:20

*This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye…in remembrance of me.* I Cor. 11:25

As we partake of the symbols this Lord’s Day, let us not fail to **R**emember and **R**evere Him.

*Sweet feast of love divine! ‘Tis grace that makes us free*

*To feed upon the bread and wine, In memory, Lord, of Thee.*

*That blood that flowed for sin, In symbol here we see,*

*And feel the blessed pledge within, That we are loved of Thee.*

*Sir E. Denny*

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R766**

1. Two weeks ago on Monday, 30th September, before dawn, the writer fell on his face in his bedroom, and blood flowed out from a gash near his eyebrow and two cuts from a big swelling on his forehead. The blood was streaming down his face freely as he was on blood-thinning pills. An ice-pack and plenty of tissue paper pressed onto the wounds managed to stop the bleeding temporarily. Later he had to go to the emergency room in the hospital for a surgeon to close up the gash with five stiches and plaster the other cuts.

Later in the day, his face puffed up around his eyes and in his cheeks. His face became blue-black with clotted blood beneath the surface of the skin as blood continued to ooze out from the wounds beneath it. The face then was not a pleasant sight to behold – with puffy cheeks, swollen eyes, a bumpy forehead and blue-black patches all over the face. As he looked into the mirror to behold this “ugly” appearance, he could not help but recall how his Lord would have suffered when…

*the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.*

*When they had* ***twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head****, and a reed in His right hand…*

*Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and* ***struck Him on the head****.*

*And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be* ***crucified****.* Matthew 27:27-31 (NKJV)

Can you just picture what happened when the crown, platted from thick thorns from the desert shrubs, was placed on His head, pulled down to sit and fit onto His own crown with the thorns pressed into it and then hit into place with the reed repeatedly? Blood would definitely be streaming down all round His head to cover up even His eyes blocking His vision, flowed down His nose and over His mouth to make it difficult even for Him to breathe, and in that state, not counting His bleeding back that was earlier furrowed with near forty lashes of the cruel Roman scourge, he was then led away to suffer further torture when His body was nailed to the cross to be crucified.

Read what Isaiah had prophesied of His sufferings about seven centuries before it happened:

*His appearance was so disfigured that He did not look like a man, and His form did not resemble a human being*— Isaiah 52:14a (HCSB)

Scourging was a cruel Roman torture. Crucifixion was a cruel lingering death. In both cases blood marked the tormented mass of human cruelty to his fellow-men. Can you imagine yourself suffering such, if not for the Lord? How do you react to His suffering for you?

*He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*  [Isa. 53:3-6, NKJV] **REFLECT**

1. How do you react or respond to these challenges listed below in the light of what and how Jesus suffered for you and took your place?

Heb. 13:12-13 (NKJV) – *Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.*

1 Pet. 4:13-16 – *But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

*If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*

*But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed;*

*but let him glorify God on this behalf.* **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** “*If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice*

*can be too great for me to make for Him*.” – C. T. Studd