**R949 Rumination for Apr. 2, 2023 (Week before Resurrection Day) by K.C. Ung**

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

The **T**ext: *We preach* ***Christ Crucified****…* I Cor. 1:23; 2:1

The **T**hots:

In five days’ time, **April 7** – The **C**hristian World will **C**ommemorate the **C**rucifixion of Jesus.

Whether Jesus was **C**rucified on that day or a day before it to fulfil **C**ompletely His Prediction that He would be three **C**omplete days and three **C**omplete nights in the heart of the earth as was *Jonah* [who] *was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth*. Mt. 12:40, NKJV, some Bible **C**ommentators still **C**annot **C**oncur. Whatever it is, we know for a Fact that *He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures* (I Cor. 15:4).

1. **The Sufferings of Christ.**
2. The **S**courging for the **C**ross – Jesus expected it! Mk. 10:34

*They shall mock Him, and shall* ***scourge*** *Him…and shall kill Him: and the third day He shall rise again.*

1. The Act of **S**courging –
2. The **S**courge consisted of a wooden handle to which several thongs were attached, the ends equipped with pieces of lead or brass and with sharply pointed bits of bone.
3. The **S**courging: **S**tripped of his clothes, the victim would be bound to a column or stake.

The **S**tripes were laid especially (not exclusively) on the victim’s **b**ack, **b**ared and **b**ent. The **b**ody was at times, torn and lacerated to such an extent that deep-seated veins and arteries - sometimes even entrails and inner organs – were exposed.

1. The Act of being **S**courged.
2. It was a **V**ile Act - See (ii) above.
3. It was a **V**erifying Act – it verified prophecy – *I gave my back to the smiters.* Isa. 50:6

*The plowers plowed upon My back: they made long their furrows.* Psa. 129:3

1. It was a **V**icarious Act cf. Isa. 53:5
2. The **S**cornful “**C**oronation” – Mt. 27:28-31
3. The **C**rown of Thorns – *when* *they had platted a crown of thorns* *they put it upon His head,* 27:29

 **C**hrist redeeming the **C**urse on **C**reation. Gen. 3:17, 18 cp. Rom. 8:22

1. The **C**lothing of Mockery.
2. The **S**carlet/Purple robe. *And they stripped Him, and put on Him a scarlet robe.* 27:28
3. The **S**ceptre – *and a reed in His right hand* 27:29
4. The **S**pitting – *And they spit upon Him* 27:30
5. The **S**miting – *and took the reed, and smote Him on the head.* 27:30

**3**. The **C**rucifixion

1. The **C**ruelty of the **C**ross.
2. The **F**orm of the Cross - St. Andrew’s Cross (**X**); St. Anthony’s Cross (**T**); The Latin Cross (**+**)??
3. The **F**eatures of Crucifixion
* The Victim **C**arrying His own **C**ross – **C**ontrast the **C**ase of Jesus. Lk. 23:26

*they laid hold upon one Simon…on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after* *Jesus*.

* The erecting of the vertical bar.
* The victim tired and nailed to the horizontal bar.
* The victim pulled up to position by ropes.
* The nailing of the victim’s feet and seat.
1. The **F**earful Horrors of Crucifixion.
* The **T**ime of Death – normally 36 hours to 9 days.
* The **T**orture of the Cross: Wounds and severe inflammation, swelling of the wounds, in the region of the nails, unbearable pain from torn tendons, fearful discomfort from the strained position of the body, throbbing heading and burning thirst.
1. The **C**urses of the **C**ross –
2. *And He* ***B****earing His* ***C****ross went forth…* Jn. 19:17
3. He was **B**earing the **C**urse of **C**rucifixion. Mt. 27:46 cf. Gal. 3:13
4. The **C**hrist on the **C**ross.
5. He died **V**oluntarily. Jn. 19:34; Lk, 23:46; Jn. 19:33
6. He died **V**icariously. Lk. 23:34; Mt. 28:46
7. He died **V**ictoriously – *It is finished.* Jn. 19:30; Mt. 27:51, 52 cf. I Cor. 15:55-57

**B. The Spectators at the Cross See Reflections for the Week**

*Lifted up was He to die,*

*“It is finished!” was His cry;*

*Now in heaven exalted high;*

 *Hallelujah! what a Savior!* Philip Paul Bliss

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 849**

**1**. Continued from Rumination above:

 **B.** **The Spectators at the Cross and t**he **C**hallenge of the **C**ross – Lam. 1:12

*Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.*

While this might be the cry of Jerusalem, could this be applied to Jesus when He suffered the anguish of the cross as strangers passed by and mocked Him?

1. Was it *Foolishness*? – *We preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock,*

 *and unto the Greeks foolishness;* I Cor. 1:23

1. The Soldiers thought so.
2. They Ridiculed Him. Mt. 27:27-**31**

*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.*

1. They Gambled on Him – *And they…parted His garments, casting lots:* Mt. 27:35
2. Pilate thought so. Lk. 23:14-22; Jn. 19:10

*Then saith Pilate unto Him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest Thou not that I have power to crucify Thee, and have power to release Thee?*

1. The Philosophy of the Greeks thought so. I Cor. 1:21-**23**, 25

*We preach Christ crucified…unto the Greeks foolishness;*

1. Was it a *Stumbling Block*? I Cor. 1:23

*We preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock…*

1. The **P**assers-by Thought so. Mt. 27:**39**, 40

*And they that passed by reviled Him, wagging their heads…*

1. The **P**riests and Religionists Thought so. Mt. 27:**41**, 42

*Likewise also the chief priests mocking Him, with the scribes and elders…*

1. A Thief thought so. Mt. 27:44

*The thieves also, which were crucified with Him, cast the same in his teeth.*

1. Was It *the Power of God*? I Cor. 1:24, 25

*But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God,*

*and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men;*

*and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

1. The Roman Centurion Thought so. Mt. 27:54

*Now when the centurion…watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things*

*that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.*

1. A Thief Thought so. Lk. 23:39-43

*And one of the malefactors…said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into Thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him…To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise.*

1. Paul Thought so. I Cor. 2:2-5

*I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified …That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

And what do you think of the Crucifixion of Christ? Is it nothing to you? **REFLECT**

1. Even as we focus our thoughts on the sufferings, crucifixion and death of Christ this week, let us remember too that He rose again from the dead on the third day that we too might follow His footsteps in a spiritual way, *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that* ***ye should follow His steps****:* (I Pet. 2:21)
* *I am* ***crucified*** *with Christ: nevertheless I live*. Gal. 2:20 cf. Rom. 6:6
* *Now if we* ***died*** *with Christ*… Rom. 6:8 cf. II Tim. 2:11
* *Therefore we are* ***buried*** *with Him by baptism into death:* Rom. 6:4 cf. Col. 2:12
* *When we were…****made…alive*** *together with Christ*. Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:13, NKJV

Hence, this life that I now live *in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God,*

*Who loved me, and gave Himself for me.* Gal. 2:20 **REFLECT**

**Points to Ponder:**

*You are dead with Christ, that you might be raised with Him to walk in newness of life.*