**R969 Rumination for Aug. 20, 2023**

The **T**heme: **The Great Cross-Bearer- Pt. 1** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp,* ***bearing His reproach.***Heb. 13:13

The **T**hots: This Rumination is in two Parts. Pt. 2 to Continue next week.

1. **Christ the Great Cross-Bearer: Jn. 19:17;** Mk. 15:20;

*He* ***bearing His cross*** *went forth into a place called the place of a skull…called in the Hebrew Golgotha:*

1. The **A**ppointed **P**lace of Crucifixion – *outside the camp;*
2. It was a **P**lace of **P**unishment.
* Naboth was **S**toned there – *They carried him forth out of the city…that he died.* I Kgs. 21:13, 14
* Stephen was **S**toned there – *And cast him out of the city, and stoned him:* Acts 7:58
* Christ **S**uffered there – *Jesus also…suffered without the gate:* Heb. 13:12
1. He Experienced **P**hysic**al** **P**ain – *He bore our* ***S****tripes.* Isa. 53:5
* They **S**courged Him – *Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged Him.* Jn. 19:1
* They **S**mote Him – *And they smote Him with their hands.* Jn. 19:3
* They **S**peared Him – *But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side…* Jn. 19:34
1. He Suffered Ment**al** **P**ersecution – *He bore our* ***S****orrows.* Isa. 53:4
* Consider the **B**urden of **S**in for One *Who knew no* ***S****in*. II Cor. 5:21
	+ - The **B**earing of **S**pite for One Who came to **S**ave –

*The chief priests mocking said…He saved others; Himself he cannot save.* Mk. 15:30f

* + - The **B**lood and Water of **S**uffering for the Man of **S**orrows – *One of the soldiers…*

*with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water*. Jn. 19:34

1. He Underwent Spiritu**al** **P**unishment – I Pet. 2:24

*Who His own* ***S****elf bare our* ***S****ins in His own body on the tree…*

* He had to **L**ay down His **L**ife for the Penal**ty** of Sin.
* He had to **S**tand alone for the **S**everi**ty** of Sin.
* He had to **S**uffer to bring about the Liber**ty** from **S**in.

b. It was a **P**lace of **P**ropitiation. [The Sin offering was sacrificed *outside the camp*. Lev. 4:11, 12]

 Outside the city walls of…**R**acial **P**rejudice. I Jn. 2:2

 *And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

 …**R**ational **P**ride. I Jn. 4:10

 *Herein is love…that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

 A **R**ebellious **P**ast. Rom. 3:25 cp. Eph. 2:13-18

*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

1. The **A**ttire of the **P**erson for Crucifixion.
2. He was Attired with a **C**rown of Thorns Mk. 15:17

 *And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head,*

1. The **S**ymbol of **C**urse – The **F**utility of Works. Gal. 3:10

*For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse…*

1. The **S**ubstitution for a **C**ure – The **F**reedom through Faith. Gal. 3:13

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

1. He was Attired in His own **C**lothes. Mk. 15:20

*And when they had mocked Him, they…put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.*

1. He put on His own **C**lothes of **C**onsistency – The One Wo died was the One Who Lived.
2. We are to put on the **C**lothes of **C**hristianity – **CHRIST**. Gal. 3:27

*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

* To Radi**ate** out the Beau**ty** of Jesus – *put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ*. Rom. 13:14 cp. I Pet. 3:2-6
* To Demonstrate our Identi**ty** with Christ – *be not conformed to this world*: Rom. 12:2
* To Live a Life of Sancti**ty** unto Christ – *present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy…*Rom. 12:1
* Remember Clothes **M**ake the **M**an of God.
1. **Simon – The Delegated Cross-Bearer –** *they compel one Simon…to bear His cross*. **Mk. 15:21**
2. The **E**nlistment for Royal Service – “*compel*” = *press. [press = impress into royal service]*

**R**easons for **E**nlistment – The **P**ressure of…

1. The **W**eight of Sin – *let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us.* Heb. 12:1
2. The **W**ages of Sin – *For the wages of sin is death*; *but the gift of God is eternal life…* Rom. 6:23
3. The **W**ords of Love – *God commendeth His love toward us, in that…Christ died for us.* Rom. 5:8; I Jn.3:1
4. The **E**xamples in Royal Service – *Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.* Rom. 16:13
5. The Example of Rufus – *Salute Rufus*
6. The Example of Rufus’ Mother *– his mother and mine*
7. The Example of Simon *–* he accepted the challenge to bear the cross.

*Must Jesus bear the cross alone, And all the world go free?*

 *No, there’s a cross for everyone, And there’s a cross for me.* Thomas Shepherd

**Part 2 - To continue next Lord’s Day.**

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 969**

What are the Differences between bearing the Cross of Christ and bearing my own Cross?

Compare and contrast the following biblical texts and discover the differences. Reflect on the challenges each brings to you.

1. What does it mean ***To Bear the Cross of Christ*?** **REFLECT**

Matthew 16:24-26 – *Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me,*

*let him deny himself, and* ***take up his cross****, and follow Me.*

*For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it.*

*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

Hebrews 12:2 – *Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him* ***endured the cross****, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the* *throne of God.*

1. What does it mean ***To Bear my Cross*?**

Is it to bear the cross in the form of a necklace around your neck, or see it mounted on the wall in front of the meeting hall or on the roof top or on a clock tower of a church building?

See what the Lord Himself said concerning bearing His cross to be as a condition of being His disciple. What do you understand by it? **REFLECT**

Matthew 16:25-27 –

*For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it.*

*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

*For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works.*

Luke 14:25-35 – *And there went great multitudes with Him: and He turned, and said unto them, If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.
And whosoever doth not* ***bear his cross****, and come after me, cannot be My disciple.
For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?
Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.
Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?
Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.
So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.
Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?
It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

Galatians 6:14

*But God forbid that I should* ***glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ****, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*

*The cross it standeth fast, Hallelujah! (x2); Defying every blast, Hallelujah! (x2)*

*The winds of hell have blown, The world its hate hath shown,*

*Yet it is not overthrown, Hallelujah for the cross! Hallelujah* (x3) *for the cross;*

*Hallelujah, hallelujah, It shall never suffer loss.* Horatius Bonar**POINTS TO PONDER:** *Take away* ***C****hrist and the* ***C****ross from the* ***B****ible and it* ***B****ears no more Purpose whatsoever!*