

He Endured the Cross

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"Therefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily entangles us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 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 has sat down at the Right Hand of the Throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)

Endured: from the Greek word ***hypomeinen*** (from ***hupomeno***): a verb, which means: to endure, literally, remaining under (the load), bearing up (enduring). To bear bravely and calmly ill-treatment. From ***hupo*** and ***meno***; to stay under (or behind); to remain; figuratively: to undergo, i.e. to bear (trials), to have fortitude, to persevere, to suffer under, or on.

Cross: from the Greek word ***stauron*** (from ***stauros***) which means: an upright stake, hence a cross - (the Roman instrument of crucifixion). Or the crosspiece of a Roman cross; "This transverse beam was the one carried by the criminal." And "The cross represents unspeakable pain, humiliation and suffering – and ironically is also the symbol of infinite love! At the cross, Jesus won our salvation – which is free but certainly not cheap!" We bear our own cross when we, in Christ Jesus, endure trials, persecution. and sufferings because of our faith in Jesus.

The context is that: for the joy that was set before Him (the knowledge of our eventual perfection and completion of faith unto our salvation – through His sufferings and death on the Cross), that Jesus, therefore, endured the the unspeakable pain, suffering, shame, and eventually death on the Roman execution Cross! This was prophesied in the scriptures:

"I (Jesus) am poured out like water, and **all My bones are out of joint**: My heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of My bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and My tongue cleaves to My jaws; and You have brought Me into the dust of death. For dogs have encompassed Me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed Me; **they pierced My hands and My feet**. I may tell all My bones; and they look and stare upon Me. They part My garments among them, and cast lots upon My robe." (Psalm 22"14-17)

"But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His (Jesus) side, and immediately there came out blood and water. And he (John) who saw it bore record, and his record is true: and he knows what he says true, so that you might believe. For these things were done, so that the scripture should be fulfilled, '**A bone of Him shall not be broken.**' (see Exodus 12:48) And again another scripture says, '**They shall look on Him whom they pierced.**' (see Zechariah 12:10) " (John 19:34-37)

Jesus Himself spoke of His soon to be sufferings and death on the Cross:

"And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that **He** said unto His disciples, 'you know that after two days is the Feast of the Passover, and the Son of Man will be betrayed **to be crucified**. Then the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, assembled together into the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted together how they might take Jesus by stealth, and kill Him.'" (Matthew 26:1-4)

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Eventually. As prophesied Jesus did endure His suffering and death on the Cross:

"And so Pilate, willing to gratify the people, released Barabbas unto them, **and delivered Jesus**, after he had scourged Him, **to be crucified**. And the soldiers led **Him** away into the hall, called Prætorium; and they call together the whole band. And they clothed Him with purple, and twisted a crown of thorns, and put it upon His head, and they began to salute Him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!.' And they struck Him on the head with a reed, and they spit upon Him, and bowing their knees worshipped Him. And when they had mocked Him, they took off the purple from Him, and put His own clothes on Him, **and led Him out to crucify Him**. ... And they brought Him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, 'The place of a skull.' And they gave Him to drink wine mingled with myrrh (and gall): but He did not take (drink) it not. And when they had crucified Him, they parted His garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take. And it was the third hour, **and they crucified Him**. And the superscription of his accusation was written above Him, 'THE KING OF THE JEWS.' " (Mark 15:15-26) (JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS." in John 18:15-19)

Then "they gave Him (Jesus) vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when He had tasted it, He would not drink it. **And they crucified Him**, and parted His garments, casting lots (for the parts): that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, 'They parted My garments among themselves, and upon My robe they cast lots.' " (Matthew 27:34-35)

Jesus endurance and death on the Cross was followed by His glorious resurrection:

"At the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow; and for fear of him the guards did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, 'Fear not; for I know that you seek Jesus, **who was crucified**. He is not here: **for He is risen, as he said**. Come, and see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell His disciples **that He is risen from the dead**; and, behold, He is going before you into Galilee; there you shall see Him... ." (Matthew 28:1-7)

The reality of Jesus sufferings, and endurance of all things related to His death on the Cross were later clearly expounded upon:

"For it pleased the Father that in Him (in Jesus) should all fulness (of Deity) dwell; and, **having made peace (for us) through the blood of His Cross**, and through Him to reconcile all things unto himself; through Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, who were formerly alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now **He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death (on the Cross!)**, to present you (us) holy and blameless and beyond reproach in His (the Father's) sight:" (Colossians 1:19-22)

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels **for the suffering of death**, crowned with glory and honor; that He **by the grace of God should taste death for every man**." (Hebrews 2:9)

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And again:

"... **Christ Jesus**; who, **being in the form of God**, considered it not comprehensible **to be Equal With God**; but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made in the **likeness** of men. And being found in **fashion** as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient **unto death, even the death of the cross**." Therefore God has also highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name; so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. " Philippians 2:6-8-11)

"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made-alive together with **Him (Jesus)**, having forgiven you of **all trespasses**; blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **nailling it to his cross**;" (Colossians 2:13-14)

Not only did Jesus speak of His own destiny with the Cross of His sufferings and death; Jesus also spoke of the necessity of His disciples (even us) to daily take up, and endure, our own crosses: Consider the following:

"And He (Jesus) said to them all, If any man will come after Me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me**. For whoever will save his life shall lose it; but whoever will lose his life **for My sake**, he shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? For whoever shall be ashamed **of Me** and of My words, of him shall the **Son of Man be ashamed**, when He shall come in His own glory, and in His Father's (glory), and of the holy angels." (Luke 9:23-26)

"If any man comes to Me, and does not hate his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And **whoever does not bear his cross, and come after Me**, cannot be My disciple." (Luke 14:26-27)

Jesus Endured the Cross

He endured the Cross for the joy that was set before Him!
That joy was founded upon the foreknowledge that millions upon millions of people
would be saved from their sins; and perfected in holiness in and through
Jesus Himself !!!

All Praise and Glory, and Power, belong to You Lord Jesus,
and to the glory of God the Father forever and ever !!!

Amen and Amen – Always and Always !!!