

Jesus faces the persecution of evil. As onlookers watch the pain and suffering of our Lord, they fail to understand that there is far greater suffering ahead for those who reject the calling.

Outline

Continued

When Scripture speaks of judgement, it does not do so to satisfy curiosity, but to awaken the conscience. The horror of Revelation is not merely the pain of the body; it is the desperation of a soul that cannot escape itself. To be separated from the Father is to be cut off from the only source of light, life, and peace. This is why the cry of Christ matters so deeply: He bore what we deserved, that we might be reconciled to God.

Many wish to speak of the cross only as comfort, yet the cross is also a warning. It declares that sin is not a small matter, and that no one can negotiate with death. The world may laugh at holiness and dismiss the fear of the Lord, but the judgement of God is not erased by our disbelief. The mercy of God is offered now; therefore, let us not harden our hearts, as though tomorrow were guaranteed.

And when we speak of God's plan, we must speak honestly about His covenant faithfulness. The Lord set His love upon Israel, not because they were greater, but because He is faithful to His own word (Deuteronomy 7:6–8). If God kept His oath through Israel's failings, should we not tremble to speak proudly against what He has chosen? The same God who disciplines also preserves; the same God who judges also redeems. Therefore, any faith that produces contempt for God's purposes has forgotten the character of God Himself.

It is easy to blame others for the darkness in the world. It is harder—and far more necessary—to confess that the darkness also speaks from within our own hearts. We may condemn the sins of past generations, yet still excuse our bitterness, our unforgiveness, and our pride. Scripture does not allow us the comfort of comparison; it brings every man low: "There is none righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10). If we want to speak of who pierced the Son of God, we must remember that our sin required His wounds.

Consider, then, the posture of Jesus. He did not come boasting, nor did He demand honour from men; He entered in meekness. He could have summoned angels, yet He chose the path of obedience. If our King rode in on a donkey's colt, how can His followers insist on thrones of self-importance? Let our speech be restrained, our anger slow, and our hands quick to serve. Let us be a people known not for our accusations, but for our repentance and our love.

From the beginning, God did not leave man without hope. The promise of Genesis 3:15 was not a poetic thought; it was a declaration of war against the serpent and a pledge of deliverance for sinners. Christ has bruised the enemy's head, not by earthly force, but by His death and resurrection. The grave could not hold Him; therefore, the believer is not captive to despair. Satan may accuse, and the world may threaten, but Jesus lives—and because He lives, all who come to Him in faith shall live also.

So let us return to the simplest and weightiest question: What will we do with Jesus? Let us not stand among the onlookers—observing, analysing, and remaining unchanged. Rather, let us bow, confess our sin, and cling to the mercy of God while it may be found. May the Father soften our hearts, remove hatred from our tongues, and plant within us reverence, gratitude, and obedience. And may Christ be exalted in our lives, until the day faith becomes sight.

- Persecution and suffering
 - Onlookers witness Christ's suffering but miss the greater consequences awaiting those who reject God's call
 - Future suffering is described as people seeking death, yet death eludes them (Revelation 9:6)
 - Central agony: separation from God, echoed in Christ's cry of forsakenness
- Israel, God's people, and misunderstanding
 - Insults and slander persist—even within Christian circles—toward God's people and the Jewish nation
 - Reflection question: Without Israel, where would faith and the story of redemption be grounded?
- God's purpose and human unrighteousness
 - Israel was never portrayed as perfect; God used surrounding nations to discipline and instruct
 - Warnings are set forth for believers; all stumble, and none are righteous
- Scripture foundations
 - God's choosing love for Israel (Deuteronomy 7:6–8)
 - Human corruption and the refusal to honour God (Psalm 14:1–3; Psalm 53:1–3; Romans 3:10–12)
 - Personal acknowledgement of sin and need for deliverance through Christ (Romans 7:24–25)
- Call to self-examination
 - Identify personal shortfalls: unjust anger, resentment, pride, and self-importance
 - Christ's humility contrasts human pride (entry on a donkey's colt)

- Rejecting blame and recognising God's plan
 - Condemning Jews for Christ's death ignores God's redemptive plan established before creation
 - To denounce Israel is to denounce God's plan
- Promise of the Messiah from the beginning
 - First messianic promise: enmity between the serpent's seed and the woman's seed (Genesis 3:15)
 - Jesus as the promised Seed, born by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35)
 - Fulfillment in Christ's victory over death and Satan through the resurrection
- Warning against bitterness, hatred, and pride
 - Bitterness clings to evil and rejects offered saving grace
 - Examples of destructive hearts: Pharaoh and Herod
 - Lesson: pride and corrupted hearts precede downfall; attend to the condition of the heart