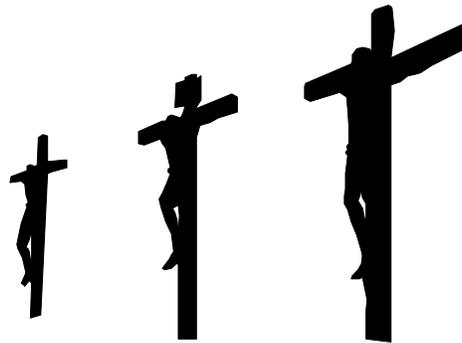


The Lord's Supper

4 MEN and 3 CROSSES
Part 1



OUR DAILY BREAD

Junior Edition

I-4-09



SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW:

God is perfect. He is Holy. We are all sinners. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

(Romans 3:23a KJB)

None of us could ever make ourselves perfect or holy to be accepted by God. But God loves us all so much, that He gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to go to the cross and pay the penalty for our sins IN FULL, ONCE and FOR ALL. Jesus died and rose again. Because of the Lord Jesus Christ, God can now make us holy and acceptable to Himself. *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.* (1 Peter 3:18 KJB)

Jesus Christ is our ONLY WAY to God and heaven.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(John 14:6 KJB)

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. (Acts 16:31 KJB)

Without Jesus Christ, you can NEVER be accepted by God or go to heaven. When you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God makes you His child. When you leave this world, you will spend all of eternity with Him! *But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.* (John 1:12 KJB) While you are still here on earth, learn His beautiful Word. Believe it and obey it, so you can enjoy all God has done for you.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

(Colossians 3:16a KJB)



It's 2009!

What a WONDERFUL way to begin this
NEW YEAR
by celebrating

The Lord's Supper!

What a wonderful way to begin this New Year —
REMEMBERING & PROCLAIMING our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ & His death on the cross for us all! We do that
each & every time we EAT the BREAD & DRINK the CUP!

Here is what Jesus said on the night before His death:

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink
this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he
come.”

1Corinthinas 11:26 KJB

On that night, Jesus used EARTHLY THINGS—
things that we can see & touch— to teach us about
HEAVENLY THINGS, SPIRITUAL THINGS—the
things about Himself & His cross. The bread represents
His PERFECT, SINLESS, HOLY HUMAN BODY that was
nailed to the cross for us ALL—even for those who will never
believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died for sins of all
mankind! The cup represents the blood He shed to PAY IN
FULL for the sins of the ENTIRE WORLD! God did not
leave anyone's sins off that cross. On that cross, God took
the sins that you & I & all mankind choose to commit away
from us and SENT them to Jesus! The apostle Peter tells us
that Jesus bore ALL our sins IN HIS BODY on that cross.

God had Peter write this about Jesus:
"Who his own self bare our sins in his
own body on the tree..."

1 Peter 2:24a KJB

Before Jesus went to the cross, John the Baptist saw Jesus. Read what John said about Jesus when He saw Jesus:

"Behold the Lamb of God, which
taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29 KJB



After Jesus Christ took ALL THE WORLD'S SINS upon Himself & paid in full for every one of them, He cried "IT IS FINISHED". You can read what He said in John 19:30.

God said that man's sin must be paid for. He sent His Son Jesus to take the place of everyone to PAY that DEBT! When the payment was completed, God who is the Supreme Judge of all the universe, said that mankind's sin debt was PAID IN FULL. Now in any court of Law—and especially in God's court of Law—if a person owes a debt and the debt is PAID IN FULL, that debt NO LONGER EXISTS. And Jesus paid IN FULL for the debt that ALL mankind owed God. Jesus did not leave any one out at all! God, the Supreme Court Judge of all the universe has said that Jesus Christ has PAID IN FULL for the sins of the entire world—for those who believe that Jesus is God, the Savior of the world as well as for those who choose not to believe that, about Jesus. Because of the cross, God is NOT holding man's personal sins against them. They have been taken out of the way by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. God has said that CLEARLY in His written Word OVER & OVER AGAIN!

When Jesus gave that first Lord's Supper, we saw that

He used the **PHYSICAL ELEMENTS** of **THE BREAD & THE CUP** to teach the apostles (and us as well) who He was & what He was going to do on the cross for all mankind that next day. This was not the only time that Jesus used **PHYSICAL ELEMENTS** to teach people what God wants people to know & understand. As you read through your King James Bible, you will see many, many of the **PHYSICAL THINGS** that Jesus used to teach **SPIRITUAL THINGS**—heavenly things. Jesus is the **BEST TEACHER** of the universe. He knows that when people **SEE** examples of things, they understand them better. For example, all the Old Testament Laws & religious rituals given by God to the people of that time were all “earthly things” that the Lord used to teach the people about the things that are in heaven.



For example, the entire temple & altar that God commanded Moses to build on **EARTH** was patterned like the one that is up in **HEAVEN**! You can read Hebrews 8:1-5 and Exodus 25 on your own to learn some facts about this. Also, read Isaiah 6:1-8 where Isaiah was allowed to **SEE** God’s altar in heaven—where mankind’s personal sins have been judged & paid by the blood of Christ.

Well, in today’s lesson, **4 MEN & THREE CROSSES**, part 1, we are going to see how God used **THINGS WE CAN SEE**—**EARTHLY THINGS**—to give us some awesome **FACTS** about **SPIRITUAL THINGS**. What spiritual things? The **SPIRITUAL TRUTHS** of who Jesus is & what He did for **ALL MANKIND** when He suffered & died on that cross 2000 years ago. Today we will begin to learn how God used **4 MEN** and **3 CROSSES**—things that people could **SEE** at that time— things that we today can **PIC-**

TURE in our minds—to show us that Jesus Christ paid in full for the sins of the entire world and that God is not and will never hold man’s personal sins against them. Let’s begin looking at 4 MEN & 3 CROSSES.

On the day that Jesus was crucified, God’s written Word tells us that 2 other men were nailed to crosses on the same day. God’s Word also tells us that the 3 crosses were arranged in a very certain order.

Let’s read what that order was:

“And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

And the superscription of this accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left.” Mark 15:27 KJB



That is what the people saw that day. From the words the Lord has given us describing this, we too can easily picture the way the crosses were arranged. Jesus’ cross was standing in the MIDDLE BETWEEN the 2 crosses of the 2 thieves. Now, this was NO ACCIDENT as we shall see as we read on in Mark 15:28 KJB

“And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.”

Those words “and the scripture was fulfilled” tell us that the way the crosses were arranged with Jesus nailed upon the middle one was NOT accidental.

Those crosses were arranged that way because at one time, God said they WOULD BE! When did God say that? About 700 YEARS BEFORE Jesus went to the cross! At that time, The Lord told the prophet Isaiah write down this about Jesus' future death:

"...he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Isaiah 53:12b KJB



By the way, this was another of the Bible prophecies which we have been learning about that Jesus fulfilled while He was on earth as part of God's PROOF that He is REAL & that His Son The Lord Jesus is, the

"living God who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." 1Timothy 4:10 b KJB

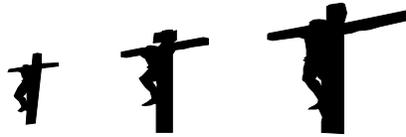
In fact, God had those 3 crosses lined up with Jesus in the middle as a VISUAL PICTURE of Jesus being the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe! Let's think carefully now as we remember some important FACTS about those 3 crosses and the men who were nailed to them. The thieves on each side of Jesus DESERVED to be there. They both had broken laws and committed evil crimes. They both had been TRIED & FOUND GUILTY & were now GETTING WHAT THEY DESERVED! They were both SINNERS as could be clearly seen by their crimes. And in that way, these 2 thieves represent YOU & ME! First, we are all BORN with a sin nature that we got

from Adam (Romans 5:19). Then, with that sin nature we choose to disobey God's Laws (James 2:10) . In fact, God says that it is because of that SIN NATURE that we are all born into this world already CONDEMNED. Romans 5:18 is just one verse that says so: "Therefore as by the offence of one (That one is Adam.) judgment came upon all men to condemnation;"

So by the fact that these 2 thieves were sinners DESERVING DEATH, they represent all the world.

And there nailed to a cross between them was the SINLESS & HOLY Jesus. He did NOT deserve to be there! But there He was on the cross taking all our personal sins upon Himself—to take them out of the way forever by paying the debt in full! And remember God's court of Law said this about Jesus' payment: IT IS FINISHED! Isaiah tells us CLEARLY why Jesus hung there between those 2 thieves that day. Read this carefully now: Isaiah 53:6 KJB

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him (upon Jesus) the iniquity of us all."



In that scripture, The Lord tells us that all our PERSONAL SINS—the ones we CHOOSE to do by going astray & turning our own way instead of obeying God were “laid on Jesus” that day as He hung between those 2 thieves. Isaiah goes on to tell us that Jesus INTERCEDED—PAID FOR THE SINS OF BOTH OF THEM—there on that cross! Isaiah 53:12 tells us: “he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made interces-”

sion for the transgressors." In this way those 3 men on those 3 crosses give us picture of how Jesus is the Savior of the world. Jesus died for ALL of our sins, SAVING the world from ever having to pay their debt for personal sins. But, when Jesus was on that cross He not only paid for the sins of the whole world, Jesus also did something else! By His death & resurrection, Jesus made the way open for God to SAVE us from that CONDEMNED NATURE which we got from Adam! Now that our personal sins have been dealt with completely by His sacrifice, God says that all a person need do is "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31

Saved from what? From staying condemned on into eternity because of that NATURE OF SIN from Adam! God says that the very instant a person simply BELIEVES IN JESUS, God SAVES that person from staying condemned in that sin nature which deserves eternal death in the Lake of Fire. At that very instant a person simply believes in Jesus, God gives that person Eternal Life & makes that person His child forever! But those who choose NOT to believe, will die in that OLD SIN NATURE from Adam. They will remain condemned & end up in the Lake of Fire forever! See John 3:15-36 about that! Now we will see another picture that those 3 men on those 3 crosses show us!

While they were on those crosses that day, one of the thieves realized who Jesus was: the Savior of the world! And that thief turned to Jesus & called Him Lord! Jesus saved that thief right then & there from the eternal Lake of fire! Though Jesus paid for the sins of BOTH thieves saving both of them from the penalty of their personal sins, only the ONE who BELIEVED in Jesus was saved from the condemnation that he got from Adam! And that is how those 3 men on those 3 crosses—things we can see or picture in our mind—show us the great SPIRITUAL TRUTH that Jesus Christ is "the living God who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." See you next month for part 2. Can you guess who the 4th man was?

GRACE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John A. Ricci

Sunday Morning Service

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Transportation Service ~ Call 24 hours Prior

Weekly Services

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:30 P.M.

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:00-7:20 P.M.

Communion Service

First Sunday of Every Month

Children's Prep School (Ages 5-14) & Mother's Room

Available for Every Service

Email

info@gracecfellowship.org

Directions

From I-95

- RI Exit #22; *Left* at split to **Rt. 6 W.**
- Take Killingly St (Rt. 128) Exit; *Right* off Exit.
- Take Killingly to end; *Right* on Manton Ave; cross bridge.
- Turn *Left* at light (CVS on corner), and then bear *Left* at the split. You are now on Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1 mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Left*.

From Rt. 146

- Mineral Spring Ave Exit in Providence.
- From **146 N** turn *Left* off Exit; from **146 S** turn *Right*.
- Take Mineral Spring to end and stay *Left* around the rotary (pass North Providence Town Hall).
- Take next *Right* onto Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1½ mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Right*.



Grace Christian Fellowship

232 Woonasquatucket Avenue, North Providence, RI 02911
Tel 401.233.9671 • Fax 401.223.1292 • www.GraceCFellowship.org