

**March 31, 2024 Matthew 27**  
**“The Awfulness Of My Sin, The Love Of God”**  
**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIO**

- I. **Jesus literally died.** In **verses 57-61** is an account given by Matthew, also known as, Levi, of the burial of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. This description of His burial was foretold by a prophet of old, see **Isaiah 53:9**. Men and women, the Bible is trustworthy, we can absolutely rely on this love letter from God to His children. Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Sanhedrin, he was wealthy and was also a disciple of Jesus. Luke wrote that in some manner he had opposed the Sanhedrin in some way in regard to Jesus. John the beloved wrote in his gospel that for fear of the Jews Joseph of Arimathea was a “secret” disciple of the Lord, well, up to this point. See **John 19:38**. This timid man now goes to the authorities in order to take charge of the Lord’s body. (Jesus was literally dead). Joseph gave up his new tomb for the Lord’s burial.
- II. **The Jews heard Jesus, they just would not believe Him.** In **verses 62-66** Matthew recorded the tightly guarded tomb. The Jewish leaders go out of their way to thwart any plan that the disciples of Jesus may have to steal the body and thereby deceive people to also become followers of the Lord. Pilate concedes. The tomb and the seal were set, so they thought.
- III. **The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are essential truths of the Christian faith.** In **chapter 28:1-10** the resurrection morning is recorded. One author wrote, One of the decisive tests of the Christian faith is to rest on these facts which declare that Jesus rose from the dead. Keep in mind, there are four gospel accounts given from four different perspectives, not all word for word the same, Christians have only one duty, namely, properly to combine all of the testimony and thus to reconstruct the entire story. A good word for the serious student of the Word of God. Early on the first day of the week, Sunday, the women came to the tomb to attend the body. Love compelled them to come in the wee hours of the morning. Mary Magdalene had been possessed by 7 demons and was mercifully released from their grip by Jesus. Obviously, she never got over it, her love for Him was unshakeable, is yours? An angel appears to the women and rolls the stone away. Imagine, darkness, a threatening overtone from the Jews and authorities, an earthquake, and now an angel that was glowing! Note that none of the writers record the resurrection itself, no one saw it, only the evidence of the empty tomb, in front of which the women now stood. The onlooking guards were struck with terror. These brave women venture into the tomb’s entry way with this angel sitting there. Stop being afraid. He’s not here. **Verse 7** was not given in the flavor of a request, it was the issuing of an order. They take off in obedience with a touch of fear and a bundle of joy for all they had seen and heard. On their way they run straight into Jesus! We are not told exactly how He looked, only that the women knew it was Jesus. All fear subsided, joy overflowed, here in front of them stood the One they loved. The women fall silent, they say not a word, they approach Jesus and grasp Him by the feet and worship. They honor Him. Jesus tells them to go gather His brothers. Wow.
- IV. **Men often would rather believe a lie than the TRUTH.** In **verses 11-15** we read about the great coverup. As the women start back from the tomb, the guards reached the high priests and made a report. The soldiers themselves became witnesses to the reality of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. They tell the high priests before the women can get back to tell Jesus’ disciples! No way they could deny the report of these soldier witnesses. Sadly, they didn’t take it to heart and repent?
- V. **Our part, our privilege.** **Vv 16-20**, the Great Commission. The words, some doubted are sad. But the Bible does not mince words, it is authoritative and the truth. Some doubted. It would appear that as this occasion moved forward the doubt moved out of the picture. Marching orders are given for all believers and sealed with the promise that He will never leave us. “Best deal on the planet.” *C. R. Swindle* **“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations . . .”**

March 31, 2024

**“Prepare To Meet God”**

The Gravity Of Our Sin Has Been Dealt With, Do You Know For Certain That You Are Saved?

An Excursus: All Scripture from CSB.

**Amos 4:12**, “Therefore, Israel, that is what I will do to you, and since I will do that to you, Israel, prepare to meet your God!” The Old Testament prophet, Amos, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit gave Israel and all of us, a stark warning. There’s a day of reckoning coming, everyone will give an account for their lives and most importantly, the answer to this question; What did you do with Jesus? Who is Jesus to you?

**Amos 5:4**, “For the Lord says to the house of Israel: Seek me and live!” Here again the prophet Amos gives a directive to the nation of Israel and one that is applicable to our lives as well; seek the Lord and live! **Ecclesiastes 3:11b**, “He has also put eternity in their hearts, . . .” As you consider what you have personally “done with Jesus” do you have peace that you are ready to meet God? You may say, no but I would gladly do that right now, If I just knew how! Consider the following.

**Romans 10:8-13**, “On the contrary, what does it say? **The message is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.** This is the message of faith that we proclaim: If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, **Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame**, since there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord of all richly blesses all who call on him. For **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**”

In the above Scripture, three O. T. Passages are quoted: **Deuteronomy 30:14**; **Isaiah 28:16**; and **Joel 2:32** respectively. In **Deuteronomy 30:15** the word was then and now, the Lord has set before you: life and prosperity, death and adversity,. **Isaiah 28:14** the Lord tells all, the one who believes will be unshaken. Meditate on this chapter in light of what Paul wrote in **Romans 10**. Who will you follow? **Joel 2:32**, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Have you ever done this? Do you know for certain that if you were to die today that you would go to heaven?

**Joshua 24:15** says a choice is before you, “. . .choose for yourselves today . . . As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD.” Not to make a choice is to make a choice.

**Application:**

**II Corinthians 6:2** speaks plainly of the urgency of salvation. In **Acts 28:26-27** Paul quotes **Isaiah 6:9-10**. Be careful not to let your heart harden, your eyes grow dim, or your hearing become muted, Jesus said, you must be born again, are you saved?

Today is the day of salvation, call on Jesus to save you today, prepare to meet God!