

## The Sins That Crucified Christ #2

**Introduction.** The death of Jesus Christ was the most significant event in the history of mankind. Without it, mankind would have no hope whatsoever of spending eternity in heaven. But in that death, Jesus Christ suffered one of the most cruel and humiliating deaths known to man. Although Christ had to be sacrificed so that we could obtain forgiveness of sins, there were a number of sins which led to his death.

In Genesis 3:8-9, Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden because they violated a commandment of God. Sin is a transgression of the law (1 John 3:4). Just as sin led to the death of Christ, it will lead us away from God and toward spiritual death.

Today, we are going to examine the sins that crucified Christ. None of these are what we would consider "extraordinary" sins. It is good to study more of our Lord's life. But it is also good to study this subject so that we can avoid current manifestations of the same sins in our lives. They are the same attitudes and feelings which each one of us experience and perhaps even are falling victim to this very day.

### I. **Rejection**

- A. The scribes and Pharisees lived for the praise of men. This desire is why they would not believe on Him (John 5:44-47). Moses predicted a prophet would come among the Jews (Deuteronomy 18:15-20). In that prophecy, a condemnation is uttered against the man who would not heed the words of that prophet. The attitude and actions of the people put Christ on the cross.
- B. The Bible is full of examples of men who have rejected God. Let us spend a few moments reflecting on their actions and learn from them.
  1. Saul (1 Samuel 15:26). Saul was given the commandment to completely destroy the Amalekites. But Saul spared the king and all that was good of the sheep and cattle. As a result, he was rejected from being king over Israel.
  2. Agrippa (Acts 26:27-28). Agrippa stood in judgment over Paul. Paul directly appealed to Agrippa and he rejected the appeal of the gospel. Many people like Agrippa reject Christ's appeal to come to Him (Matthew 11:28-30).
  3. Diotrefes (3 John 9-10). Diotrefes loved to have preeminence over men. He rejected God and was seeking to please himself and his interests (Matthew 16:24).
- C. Those who reject God will pay the price (John 12:48). In what way do people reject Christ today?

1. Some reject the salvation which has been promised by Jesus Christ. To inherit the reward which He has promised is so simple. One must conform to the will of Christ in order to receive it. God has given us "great and precious promises" (2 Peter 1:4). So many reject salvation because of pride and ambition or because they desire to fulfill their lusts.
2. Some reject the pattern set for us in the scriptures. The Bible is our only authority by which we operate (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:3). There is a pattern of the church, salvation, and morality which must be followed. So many reject this pattern because they feel that they know more than God or they feel God's ways are "old-fashioned."

## II. **Selfishness**

- A. Pilate, the Roman governor, was called to determine whether or not Christ would be crucified. Selfishness played a role in his actions. The ruler could find no guilt worthy of crucifixion (Luke 23:14-15). Justice demanded that Christ be released. Fearing the crowd and the consequences, Pilate selfishly took the easy way out (Matthew 27:24).
- B. We must conform to Christ's will, and not our own. There are several examples of selfish actions in the Bible.
  1. Ahab (1 Kings 21:15-16). Naboth owned a vineyard that Ahab coveted. Jezebel found out, had Naboth killed, and Ahab felt no remorse for Naboth or his family.
  2. James and John (Matthew 20:20-26). They desired power and prestige for themselves. They wanted power, not to help others, but for their own egos and desires. Jesus condemned them as being carnally minded.
  3. The older brother (Luke 15:27-30). He had no compassion or love for others. While the older brother seemed to love his father, his lack of love for his brother revealed otherwise.
- C. What can we learn from the Bible concerning selfishness?
  1. We are our brother's keeper. This is a hard statement for many people, especially living in our present society (Genesis 4:9). We are to look out for the interests of others and esteem others better than ourselves (Philippians 2:3-4). We must care for one another (Galatians 6:2).
  2. Selfish persons place too much emphasis on material possessions. This causes very little emphasis to be placed on people (Matthew 6:21). Where is your treasure? We cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24).
  3. Selfish persons pursue pleasure without thought of

consequence. Everything we do has some consequence. Good things bring forth good results, bad things bring bad results. Selfishness tells one to "worry about it later." Selfishness tells one "there isn't anything wrong with it." Selfishness causes one to do whatever necessary to cover up the sin after it is committed (Romans 8:5-8).

### III. **Revenge**

- A. Time and time again, Christ was able to reveal the contents of the hearts of the Pharisees and Sadducees. They were very zealous of their traditions and they could not endure their absurdities being exposed. On several occasions, this was done in front of multitudes of people whom the religious leaders commanded tremendous influence over. They sought revenge, not only by making Christ look bad, but also through death by crucifixion.
- B. Some examples of revenge in the scriptures.
  - 1. Samson (Judges 15:7-8; 16:28-30). Samson's father-in-law gave his new wife to his best man (14:20). Samson later came to his father-in-law asking that he give him his wife. The father refused. Later, the Philistines killed Samson's wife and father. Samson reacted violently and killed many Philistines.
  - 2. Herodias (Mark 6:19-24). John the Baptist had condemned the marriage of Herod and Herodias. Herod put John the Baptist in prison. When Salome danced before Herod, he promised her anything in his kingdom. She desired the head of John the Baptist.
  - 3. The chief priests (Acts 5:33). Peter and the apostles were brought before the council because they were preaching the gospel. In vs. 29, Peter made his famous statement and the men that heard rose up to kill him.
- C. Why should we guard ourselves against revenge?
  - 1. Revenge was rebuked by Jesus. In Luke 9:51-56, a village of the Samaritans rejected Jesus. The disciples felt justified in asking for fire to consume them because the Samaritans, considered as social and religious outcasts, rejected Christ. Jesus wanted them to see His true mission.
  - 2. Revenge proceeds from a spiteful heart. Luke 6:45 informs us of the importance of keeping the heart pure. Ezekiel 25:15 identifies the source of revenge. A spiteful heart is not pleasing to God. Christ wants us to keep our hearts pure. If your heart is pure, your actions will be pure.
  - 3. Revenge is the Lord's. This is a fact hard to accept. It takes years of study, patience, and longsuffering to realize. The Lord

will take vengeance upon those who do not live according to His will and upon those who seek to harm His children (Ezekiel 25:15-17; Amos 1:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

#### IV. **Hatred**

- A. In Mark 12:1-11, Jesus taught the parable of the wicked vinedressers. This parable was an allusion to what the scribes and Pharisees would do to Christ in the near future. Hatred and bitterness develop into a never-ending circle that only causes misery. The Pharisees were miserable because they hated Christ. The end result of their hatred would be everlasting destruction.
- B. Hatred is contrary to the teaching of Christ.
  - 1. In the Old Testament, God never approved of hatred (Leviticus 19:17; Proverbs 10:18; 26:24).
  - 2. In the gospels, Jesus taught against hatred (Matthew 5:43-44).
  - 3. Paul taught that hatred was a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21). He furthermore stated that we need to put away bitterness and malice (Ephesians 4:31-32). John said that hatred of your brother is equal to being in the darkness and being a murderer (1 John 2:9, 11; 3:14-15).
- C. When is hate justified?
  - 1. Christians must hate error and wickedness (Psalm 97:10; 101:3; 119:104, 128, 163).
  - 2. We must be prepared to defend the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:17; Jude 3).
- D. There will be some that hate Christians.
  - 1. Jesus told His disciples that they would be hated (Matthew 10:22). The actions of the righteous will condemn the unrighteous. This was true in the case of Christ. His righteous actions presented a great contrast to the evil actions of the Pharisees, scribes, and Sadducees. The Christian must be prepared to endure suffering and the reviling of those who are in the world (John 15:18-25).
  - 2. The world looks down on Christians because they are different. Christians make those outside of Christ feel uncomfortable. No doubt most Christians have experienced this. Down through the ages, God's people have endured incredible suffering and sacrifice because they had a tremendous faith and love for God (Hebrews 11:32-40). No matter what, we must endure through trials now because the reward will be worth it.

**Conclusion.** We sing the song, "Shall I Crucify My Savior?" Every one of us have at one time or the other practiced these sins. If we are

sinning by committing these, then we are crucifying our Savior. It is our plea that you put off your crucifixion of Jesus. If you have never obeyed the gospel, we implore you not to walk out the door and crucify Jesus again. We want you to be a part of God's people. If you have fallen away, do not crucify the Son of God again because of your unbelief. Make you life right with God.

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