

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Propheying Message Eight : Christ — the One Cursed and Hanged on a Tree

I. Overview :

In Deuteronomy 21:22-23 there is a prophecy that Christ would be the cursed One hanging on a tree; here we have a type of the crucified Christ as the One who was hanged on a tree. The Lord Jesus was killed by being crucified, that is, by being hanged on a tree, the cross, and He was buried on the day of His crucifixion. The origin of the curse is man's sin and it is carried out through the law. If we try to keep the law, we will be in the flesh and automatically come under the curse. On the cross Christ accomplished the great work of bringing us out from the curse of the law, working to bear our sins and to remove the curse, but God, in judging Him as our Substitute, forsook Him economically. As the seed of Abraham, Christ was made a curse for us in order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:Thanks

Day 1 —

A. Expound the one in Deuteronomy 21:22-23 being a type of the crucified Christ.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 is concerned with the hanging of a criminal on a tree; the one is a type of the crucified Christ. If in a man there was a sin, a cause worthy of death, and he was put to death and was hanged on a tree, his corpse was not to remain overnight on the tree but had to be buried on that day, for he who was hanged was accused of God. This was exactly the situation when the Lord Jesus was crucified; He was buried on the day of His crucifixion.

B. Why did Christ take away our sin on the cross to redeem us out of the curse of the law?

As the seed of Abraham, Christ in His humanity was crucified and became a curse on our behalf to redeem us out of the curse of the law. Christ as our Substitute on the cross not only bore the curse for us but also became a curse for us. When Christ took away our sin on the cross, He redeemed us out of the curse of the law.

Day 2 —

A. Expound what the spiritual meaning of Christ's wearing a crown of thorns is.

When Christ bore our sins, He also took our curse. The crown of thorns indicates this. Since thorns are a sign of the curse, Christ's wearing a crown of thorns indicates that He took our curse on the cross. Because Christ was cursed in our place, the demand of the law was fulfilled, and He could redeem us from the curse of the law.

B. Explain the purpose of God decreeing the law.

Since man did not know that he was totally fallen and hopeless, he tried to please God by his own effort. This forced God to decree the law in order to expose man's fallen condition. God gave man the law, not for him to keep it but for man to realize that he is utterly fallen and hopeless. If they want to try keeping the law, thereby they would come under the curse of the law.

Day 3 —

A. State what He accomplished on the cross for six hours.

He suffered on the cross for six hours. In the first three hours He was persecuted by men for doing God's will; in the last three hours He was judged by God for the accomplishment of our redemption. During that time God counted Him as our suffering Substitute for sin. God forsook Christ on the cross because He took the place of sinners, bearing our sins and being made sin for us.

B. Expound what functions of the begetting Spirit and the anointing Spirit have on the Lord's crucifixion.

The Lord was born of the begetting Spirit as the divine essence, who never left Him essentially. Even when He was on the cross, He still had the begetting Spirit. But it was the anointing Spirit, God in the economical sense, through whom He presented Himself as the sacrifice to God. After God accepted Christ as the offering, the anointing Spirit left Him. According to His righteousness, God judged Him and forsook Him economically.

Day 4 —

A. Why was Christ born as a descendant of Abraham being the seed of Abraham?

In Galatians 3:1-22 Christ is unveiled as the seed of Abraham. According to Genesis 22:17-18a the Lord promised Abraham that in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. In this prophecy we have the promise that

Abraham's seed would be a great blessing to all mankind. This prophecy was repeated to Isaac and Jacob that Christ, who was born as a descendant of Abraham, was the seed of Abraham.

B. Explain Galatians 3:14 the blessing promised by God for us to be inherited.

As the seed of Abraham, Christ in His humanity blesses all the nations with the gospel of Christ. He has brought God to us and us to God for our enjoyment of God's blessing. Galatians 3:14 indicates that the blessing is the Spirit. When we receive the Spirit, we receive the Triune God as eternal life to be our blessing.

Day 5 —

A. Expound Galatians 3:14 combined the promise of the Spirit with the blessing of Abraham.

Galatians 3:14 says, "In order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." This verse combines the promise of the Spirit with the blessing of Abraham. This blessing has come to the nations in Christ through His redemption by the cross. The Spirit is the blessing which God promised to Abraham, being received by the believers through faith.

B. Explain that in the universe only God Himself is a blessing and all else is vanity.

Our blessing is God Himself, who is embodied in Christ and realized as the Spirit to be dispensed into us for our enjoyment. In the universe only God Himself is a blessing; all else is vanity. However, God becoming our blessing involved a process. Originally God was a "raw" God; by passing through a process, God became the "cooked" God to be our life and life supply.

Day 6 —

A. Explain that the Spirit is everything to us to live the Christian life.

The Spirit is the consummation of the Triune God having gone through many processes in Christ. This life-giving Spirit is the blessing of the gospel. The blessing of the gospel is the processed Triune God reaching us as the Spirit. In this compound, all-inclusive Spirit are all of Christ's person and process, including His divinity, humanity, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

B. Expound the way Galatians reveals to receive, experience, and enjoy Christ of.

It is by God's revealing of Christ in us; by our receiving of Christ out of the hearing of faith; by being born according to the Spirit and by being given the Spirit of God's Son into our hearts; by putting on Christ through the baptism that puts us into Christ; by being identified with Him in His death so that it may be no longer we who live but He who lives in us; by living and walking by the Spirit....

III. Conclusion:

On the cross Christ accomplished the great work of bringing us out from the curse of the law, working to bear our sins and to remove the curse. Christ died once to bear our sins, and He suffered the judgment for us on the cross. In the death of Christ we have died to sins so that we might live to righteousness. When Christ bore our sins, He also took our curse, indicated by His wearing a crown of thorns; not only did Christ redeem us out of the curse, but also even became a curse on our behalf. In the last three hours of His crucifixion, the Lord Jesus was forsaken by God economically to redeem us out of the curse of the law. Therefore, the curse that came in through Adam's fall has been dealt with by Christ's redemption. To redeem means to purchase, and sin and Satan have usurped us illegitimately, thus we are not redeemed from it, but we are saved from it.