

One of the unique differences between Christianity and all other religions is predicated upon the fact that Jesus Christ got out of the other side of death, hell and the grave alive. This of course, could not be stated of any other religious leader. Someone has said if they ever wanted to invent or design a religion that could even come anywhere close to Christianity the first thing the leader would have to do is die and then to prove that he had a monopoly on life and was able to break the shackles of death and be resurrected. Jesus Christ, of course, is the central theme and figure of the Word of God and the cross of course divides the Old and New Testaments. It's been said that all ancient history flows into Rome and all modern history flows out of Rome. It could be said all ancient history flows into Christ and all modern history flows from Jesus Christ for every time you date a check you give a testimonial to the fact that some great event took place nearly 2,000 years ago and of course Jesus Christ becomes the divider of not only the old and new testaments but he becomes a divider of men for if God sent Jesus Christ to earth to provide for fallen man that which man could not provide for himself and if Jesus Christ says that I come that you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly and he that hath the son hath life and he that believes on the Son of God can receive eternal life if he said I am the Way, the truth and the Life, no man comes unto the Father but by me. If he said I am the Door and he did, no man enters or comes unto the Father but by me then obviously, He becomes the key to life, the Key to God and the connecting link through which man can be reconciled unto God or else he is the biggest liar, fraud and hoax that has ever been perpetuated on an unsuspecting religious humanity. I would hope as the result of what you hear this morning you will make this decision. Either Jesus Christ <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ who he said he was or Christianity is the biggest hoax and Jesus Christ was the biggest liar that ever walked on the face of the earth and to be logical about it that is the position that a person would have to take. The Jews in the days of Christ took the logical position. If Jesus Christ claimed to be God and thus was accused of blasphemy, what he did was indeed worthy of death. They were logical, they were correct. However, if Jesus Christ was who he was and who he claimed to be, they were fools and yet God in his love turned that rejection into something absolutely fantastic for God builds on man's failures and though the Jews screamed in unison "crucify him, crucify him" we will not have this man to be over us God took that crucifixion and turned <sup>it</sup> into something absolutely fantastic in providing for all mankind a salvation, a life, a righteousness, man could not obtain any other way and through Christ's death and resurrection a payment was made an atonement was provided, a ransom was given, so that fallen man could then become the recipient of eternal life. To begin with this morning, let's open our Bibles to Luke 22. We'll begin with verse 39 for we have recorded here verses 39 through 46 suffering th

preceded that which actually took place and transpired upon the cross. The Lord Jesus Christ knew why he came. In fact, in Hebrews 10 we have recorded the words of the Lord Jesus as he becomes the first newborn baby to converse or talk with his heavenly father. You may read that at your leisure. And he says in Hebrews chapter 10 "Father, you weren't satisfied with the old covenant, the old contract, the old testament, thus it had to be replaced because the blood of bulls and goats under the old contract could not take away sin and because of the inability of those animals and that levitical system under jewdism to take care of man's sins, you now set aside the first to usher in the second thus a body you have prepared for me. Thus, Jesus Christ was given a body so that he might become that sacrifice that man needed to become the recipients of eternal life. Jesus Christ, of course, was going to become the perfect mediator for the qualifications for a mediator is that they must be equal with both parties. Jesus Christ as God could represent God to man and by becoming a man through the virgin birth could represent man to God so in I Timothy it says there is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. No other religious leader could take the position of a mediator and any clergyman or religious system that claims for itself the right to mediate for its people is flying right in the face of the Word of God. There is one God, and one mediator or go-between between God and man and its the man, Christ Jesus. As the result of being virgin born, the blood that flowed in his veins did not come from Adam thus, He is the sinless, spotless lamb of God. The life that he lived for 33-1/2 years was absolutely flawless. The Mosaic law the Ten Commandments had no legal claim on Jesus Christ, thus, it could not execute its penalty upon Jesus Christ for He never broke the law, he never violated the law. He repeatedly said my hour is not yet come. What did he mean? He meant the purpose for which I have come has not yet arrived, for he knew he came to die for the sins of the world. The night in which he is betrayed by Judas with a kiss and the temple guard coupled together with the Roman soldiers apprehend him a few hours before he begins to pray and in verse 39 it says, and he came out and went as he was want to the Mount of Olives and his disciples also followed him and when he was at that place he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation and then he withdrew himself from them a stones cast and then kneeled down and prayed saying, Father, if thou be willing remove this cup from me, nevertheless, not my will but thy will be done. There appeared an angel unto him from him strengthening him and being in agony he prayed more earnestly and his sweat was as it were drops of blood falling down to the ground and when he rose up from prayer he was come to his disciples and he found them sleeping for sorrow and he said to them, Why sleep ye, rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. <sup>thus</sup> Prayer becomes a deterrent to failure or temptation. Now the point that we're after ~~is very simple~~ here is verse 44.

-1-

your life better than you do and of course this always violates the inalienable rights that every man has been given before God. We're first of all responsible to God. Our government recognizes that, at least to begin with, few it would appear in Washington understand that principal today. All right, as we think of the sufferings of Christ, he was mis-used, abused, man-handled and beaten. This went on through much of the night for it says in verse 66 "as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and scribes came together and led him into their counsel saying, Art thou the Christ, tell us. And he said unto him, If I tell you, you will not believe me and if I also ask you, you will not answer me ~~at~~ nor let me go, hereafter shall the son of man sit at the right hand of the power of God. Then said they all, art thou then the Son of God and he said unto them, you say that I am and they said, what need we any further witnesses for we are ourselves have heard of your own mouth. Now, in the other accounts they sought two witnesses for under the law of Deutoronomy, all they needed was two witnesses to agree, but the lies were so flagrant that in their lies they couldn't get their stories together and its quite apparent they probably had at least 100 if not 300 witnesses who paraded by declaring the fact that Jesus Christ had said this, had done this etc. and yet they couldn't get two to agree we're told in the other gospels but right now we're right here and we're trying to keep it down so that we're not too involved. Now as a result of that as we move on, Chapter 23, verse 1 it says, a whole multitude arose and led him to Pilate and they began to accuse him saying, we found this fellow perverting the nation and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar saying, that he himself is Christ, a king. Pilate asked him saying, Art thou the King of the Jews and he answered him and said thou sayest it. Then said Pilate to the chief priest and to the people I find no fault in this man. Now as the result of that when finding out that he is a Galilean, verse 6, he then decided to slip him over to Herod for he felt that Herod had the jurisdiction over him so in verse 7 we have those words. Verse 8 "When Herod saw Jesus he was exceedingly glad for he was desirous to see him for a long season because he had heard so many things about him, of course he had become a celebrity. As a result of that, verse 12, Pilate and Herod were made friends together for before they were enemies. There was enmity between themselves and over the Lord Jesus Christ two enemies become friends. I must just add right here, that all other differences that exist between men when that individual is confronted with the gospel of Jesus Christ those differences are shelved immediately so when the Lord Jesus said I have chosen you out of the world therefore you are no longer of the world for if you were of the world the world loves its own there is a common love that exists between all men irregardless of what they may or may not do in the flesh. But the one great dividing factor is Jesus Christ and that will unite enemies and you can talk to 6 individuals from 6 different religious backgrounds and tell each one of them that you

and this is what the Lord Jesus was supposed to carry 650 yds from the prison house to the hill of Golgatha or the place of execution. Because of dehydration, shock weakness, no sleep the night before, all night trials, his face being beaten to the place where it was unrecognizable, it was a bloody pulp, because of the Roman soldiers who used the philegulum upon his back so that it was now shredded as beautiful loose & raw ~~meat~~ beef steak, he had lost enough blood ~~xxx~~ he had dehydrated and become just weak enough whereby he stumbled ~~xxxxx~~ carrying this piece of wood right here. Verse 32 says, " And as they came out they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name him they compelled this man from Egypt to bear his cross, no doubt a black man.

Now, my point in showin you these 4 possibilities in regards to how Christ was crucified isn't to make a point of this ~~by~~ but if the Jehovah Witnesses come to your door and say Jesus Christ was crucified on a tree or stake not on a cross, I want you to know they're pulling a mickey mouse trick on you. The issue isn't what kind of a tree or cross he was crucified on, bring them back to the issue. Irregardless of whether you had his hands up here or here or here or like this, the issue is why was he put there and what accomplished why he was there and immediately they'll be stumped. because they do not believe in the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ, they believe ~~that~~ you have to buy tennis shoes and with your tennis shoes you must go from house to house and if you are faithful in shuffling from house to house under their call letters, the JW's then, by being a part of their clique and having the fastest tennis shoes in town, by your industrious works and by your ability to atone for your own sins by religious endeavors, you can go to heaven, they don't believe in heaven so you couldn't go their anyway, plus the fact they don't believe in Hell so there's nothing to be saved from, but apparently you have a shot at the kingdom to come and of course that the the custodians of that kingdom will not be the Jews ~~xxxxx~~ Bible teach but as the JW's teach they'll be in charge, that's enough to make one go to Hell right there. Now the reason I mention that is because all religions have one thing in common. They solicit your works and your efforts and your good deeds. That's religion. Religion appeals to the natural egotism of man, the pride of man which is the number one sin in the book. 6 Sins do I hate, yea 7 are abomination to the Lord. No. 1 - Its not murder its not immorality, its pride because from pride stems every sin in the book. But pride

is that sin that captured the brain of Lucifer and because of he was so beautiful because he was so wise and this is how God made him, he said in effect, Im going to be a self-made God, Im going to move God s desk out of the front office and push my desk in and take over the business and from that time on since Lucifer said to Eve in the garden "If you disobeyed God and take the fruit, I have a promise for you, you ll be as God. Did you realize the objective of man is to diefy himself and the root of all of his ambitions is to make himself a self made man but in reality its to become like God. And did you realize as the world today is looking for a champion, a world leader, the Anti-christ, a satanically energized man will say I am your God manifested and I ll solve all your problems, just hand me your government, your religion and everything to me and I will manipulate the whole works and a one world ~~dict~~ dictator will take over. All of the leaders of the world today recognize that what we need is not more laws but a man. Good or bad they say, bring him on the scene, we need someone who can lead and the people and when Jesus Christ said I came in my Father s name you wouldn t receive me another phony will come in his own name and he ll come in his own name and he ll fall all over you. The world is conditioned right now to accept the anti-Christ who will claim all the authority and all the power of Jesus Christ and claim to give to people what they really want. and under the call letters of peace Gods wrath and judgment is going to fall on ~~xxxx~~ this world and so the Bible says, theyll say peace and safety and sudden destruction will fall upon them as travail upon them like a woman going to have a baby. Peace. You cannot have peace with men until you have peace with God. so when the Bible says, Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and then your neighbor as yourself and when these liberal clergymen come out and say love your brothers, God the Father of everybody we re all everybodys brother lets act like brothers we are. That s why we re punching everybody in the nose, were too brotherly. What we need to be is more God-like. and when the nature of God is given to an individual who places his faith in Jesus Christ they can react supernaturally and God makes them brand new creations in Christ and thats what man needs - he needs new life. He doesnt need to remold, refix, remodel, revamp or change the behavior patters of his old garbage. Thats reformation programs - its not reformation, its regeneration. new life. I can see that without ----- because I believe the Bibles true and I believe

the reason Christ came was to give man life and I believe that men are born dead in trespasses and sins - they need new life and I don't care how sophisticated you may be here this morning, how w/ educated you may be, how refined you may be, I don't care if you worked your way to the top of the local social totem pole, I don't care if you have 3 chamber of commerce medals, I want you to know that no matter what you have accomplished in time or in this life, I want you to know no matter how much praise, has been heaped upon you by people, God says you're a sinner. God says you've sinned and come short of his divine perfection. God says the wages of sin is death and the soul that sinneth it shall die and the death rate among nice people is one apiece. Physical death is full proof of the fact that God's word is true. No one escapes. We're all sinners and what we need is new life ~~in~~ and Christ came to provide ~~man~~ that life. Now, we're not through yet, we must go on. He makes his way to that hill. and on the Hill of Golgatha he then is slammed down on that beam weighing about 110 lbs. its rough, it isn't planed. This involves pain. The Roman soldier~~s~~ takes a rod iron square spike and he feels for an indentation right in the wrist and under ancient and modern medical terms the wrist is always referred to as the hand so when the Lord Jesus said to doubting Thomas, behold my hands, he ~~was~~ referring to a nail that went through here for that strip out through the fingers by the weight of that body so as you would hang up a quarter of beef in the cooler which I used to do when I worked in the grocery store in the meat department, you would always put the hook right through here. That would hold you and then a little flexibility would be given in the arm so that you could move a little so one would be nailed down first, he would then feel for the other and nail the other down. Then a sign would be placed over the top and every one could come up real close and look up and down that body and then view the reason for which he is being crucified., they could read it right on top. Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, that's why he was being crucified. So they put him there. They hoisted the beam and placed it on top of the pole and then the Roman soldier takes his left foot its actually placed like this if I can put it here. You have a nail here and then his ~~weight~~ legs must be bent so that his feet can be flattened and his toes pointed down and one foot is put right on top of the other foot and the stake is driven

that you see is not what the Bible teaches at all. That is the artists concept. This is the Biblical concept how Jesus Christ looked. Verse 3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely, he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. You underline the words, smitten of God and afflicted. I have just been talking about the affliction of men. That affliction could never atone for your sins. The law courts of heaven had to legally pour out on your substitute the punishment that would take you all eternity in Hell to pay off. Thus God had to strike him instead of you and that happened between the hours of 12 and 3 and thats when Jesus Christ began to scream. He didnt scream over the meat grinder. He didnt scream over the ~~xxxxx~~ crown of thorns, he screamed when he was brought into contact with your sin. Thats when he began to scream. Verse 5. He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; ~~xxxxxx~~ No phelegulum wealed by a Roman solder could do that, the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to our own individual egotistical, private way but the Lord God of heaven laid on him, Jesus Christ, the iniquities of us all during the hours of 12 and 3. He was oppressed he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth, he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was ~~xxx~~ taken from prison and from judgment and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord God to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, underline it, a soul was made an offering for sin. This is the dimension which is far superior and more meaningful than Christ hanging upon a cross. No man took the Lord Jesus life and the reason why the soldiers would break the legs of these men is because they would persist and go for air and straighten their legs and thus get another bit of air so they would continue to live so in order to stop the suffering the soldiers would come

and just break the legs consequently they would suffocate because they could no longer straighten and gulp another gasp of air. When they came to the Lord Jesus Christ they didn't have to break his legs because when he said it is finished, he then said Into thy hands I commit my spirit. What was finished? What was taken care of?

\* The great work for which he had come. He came to die for you and for me. Tonight possibly we will look at the resurrection of Christ and how it affects you, the kind of body you'll have in eternity. This morning I wanted to put the emphasis on a suffering saviour, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the one who came to die for you. Paul says in Col. 1 that believers are given the responsibility of ~~amxx~~ carrying on his sufferings. We never have to suffer at the hands of God for through faith in Christ we escape that judgment but we do have to suffer at the hands of men. For unto you it is <sup>in</sup> given the behalf of Christ not only to believe on him but also to suffer for his name as Phil. 1:29. Thus, suffering becomes a privilege for a believer. The Lord Jesus wasn't afraid to suffer, in fact, he said, don't fear what man can do, the most they can do is kill you. Fear me, I can slap you soul in Hell but we're more afraid of men than we are of God. That's our problem. Do you know Jesus Christ as your own personal saviour? Christ died, to provide an adequate payment in satisfying the legal demands of the law courts of heaven so that God can legally justify you because someone else picked up the tab, that's substitutionary atonement. The word propitiation means satisfaction, which means the law courts of heaven are satisfied with what Jesus Christ did for you. Are you Faith, Believe, Trust, Confidence, synonyms saying in effect, I will stake my eternal destination of the validity of God's word and the truthfulness of God that Jesus Christ died for me. And what you think about Jesus Christ will determine where you spend eternity. Isn't that simple? What you think. So the Lord Jesus repeatedly asks the question, What think ye of me? What think ye of Christ? What you think about me will determine where you'll spend eternity. What do you think about Jesus Christ? What do you believe about Jesus Christ. Do you believe that he was God-manifested in the flesh - Do you believe that he actually came to die for you - Do you believe that he bore upon himself the sins that would take you all eternity in Hell to pay off? That's what the Bible teaches. Do you know what a Christian is? A Christian is one who stakes his life on th