



'Back to Basics for Believers Series'

Sermons in the Epistle to the Philippians

Message 8 – The Death of the Cross

Philippians 2:8

As we have said, the verses 5-11 are remarkable, and give us great insight into the overwhelming attitude, sacrifice, and exalting of the Lord Jesus Christ. The verses 6-11 have been labelled as we discovered last week as a hymn to Christ. These verses could be divided into six stanzas. The first three (v6-8) celebrate Christ's humiliation, the last three (v9-11), Christ's exaltation. This verse points us to the death of the cross in the following ways:

1. **The Death of the Cross was a Humble Death** - Even after the humbling incarnation, Jesus further humbled Himself in that He did not demand normal human rights, but subjected himself to further persecution and suffering at the hands of unbelievers. 1 Peter 2:23, 'who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously.' The Lord Jesus Christ died in the humblest of ways to achieve the most glorious redemption.
2. **The Death of the Cross was an Obedient Death** - Paul's words encapsulated the whole lifetime of obedience, but leading to this shocking statement that the complete and supreme expression of Christ's obedience was His death. Beyond even persecution, Jesus went to the lowest point or the furthest extent in his humiliation in dying as a criminal following God's plan for Him. Acts 2:23, 'Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.'
3. **The Death of the Cross was a Perfect Death** - One thing is sure, the work of redemption was done. All that the law of God required, a full atonement for sins, the work that the Father had given the Son to do, was finished! The wages of sin were settled, divine justice was satisfied, the work of Christ was accomplished. Nothing can be added to what He did. The beginning and end of salvation was consummated by Jesus Christ, and we can contribute nothing, it is all of grace. He offers a salvation from sin in every sense. When he yielded up His spirit, no man took Jesus' life from Him, he gave it up of His own accord, only the omnipotent God who is Lord of all could do that. Death could not claim Jesus apart from His own will. He died in control of all that was happening to Him, even in His death He was Lord. It was a perfect death because it achieved all that it was designed for, and the Saviour's sacrifice satisfied the Father's wrath, fulfilling the plan of redemption, perfectly.
4. **The Death of the Cross was an Excruciating Death** - Paul speaks here more than anything else, of the Lord's willingness to suffer the most painful and shameful of deaths. When we use the word excruciating, we associate it with extreme pain that is almost indescribable. The word itself means out of the cross, and certainly, the cross was the most extremely painful death, to an extent that we cannot even begin to fathom the depth of physical and spiritual pain. Paul here is wanting the Philippian church to realise that this humiliation saw Christ willing to abase Himself in the extremist condition. If the Saviour was willing to die such a death and humble Himself to such excruciating pain, how ashamed should we be when we are swelled with pride!



Penzance Baptist Church
'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs