

**SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON**

**Good Friday Morning 10:30am**

**Easter Service**

**Date 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Preacher Rev Philip Knowles,**

**Hymns Ps 22:1-8 Tune amazing grace, 103 300, 95**

**Read: John 12:32-33 Text John 12:32-33**

**Title- The death Christ should die**

The words spoken by the Lord Jesus in **John 12:32** “**and if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto me,**” are immediately followed by their meaning in **verse 33** “**This He said, signifying what death He should die.**”

The Saviour’s words referred to His own death by being lifted up on Tree at Mount Calvary, where He would die **the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh...**”

In reference to Christ being lifted up on the cross to put away sins, we must never forget death by crucifixion was a shameful death.

It was punishment for a guilty criminal.

Though Christ in and of Himself, was innocent, perfect, He had no sin of His own, yet as He died in the place of sinners, God viewed and treated Him as a guilty criminal deserving punishment.

God held Christ legally responsible, and accountable for the sins of His people. He must pay their debt of sin, to set them free from sin’s eternal punishment.

Christ's obedience unto death even the death of Cross was part of His humiliation, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God and the cursed death of the cross.

As we come to our annual good Friday service, we want to consider the death Christ should die, as spoken of by the Saviour Himself.

### ***I FIRST THE MANNER OF CHRIST'S DEATH***

***“and if I be lifted up from the earth” will draw all men unto me.***

Christ's words, “***lifted up***,” express the manner of His death. Christ is referring to His work on the cross of calvary.

As the **hymnist** wrote, ***lifted up was He to die it is finished was His cry now in heaven exalted high, Hallelujah was a Saviour.***

### ***A The Manner of Christ's death was Voluntary*** –

The word translated “***lifted up***” indicates that Christ willingly gave Himself into the hands of evil men and allowed them to crucify Him and lift Him up on the tree.

Throughout His earthly ministry, men on many occasions endeavoured to take His life but had been unable to do so because, as Christ stated it, His ***hour had not yet come.***

But that hour did come, on Mount Calvary, when Christ said in **John 10:11** ***“I AM the good Shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.”*** The word “***giveth***” means “***to lay down***” therefore, to lay down one's life clearly speaks of sacrifice.

The same words are used in **John 10:15&17** when the Lord also said, ***“I lay down my life for the sheep.”*** **Verses 17-18** ***“I lay***

**down my life....v18 no man taketh it from me, but I lay it down myself....”**

When Christ died on the cross, ***He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.***

He offered Himself a willingly. **Romans 5:8** ***“God commendeth His love towards us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”***

### ***B The Manner of Christ's death was Vicarious.***

This same expression ***“lifted up”*** is used five times in John's Gospel and each time it is clear that the Lord's death was **vicarious** also meaning **substitutionary**.

The idea of substitution is taking the place of another.

Its interesting to note that the phrase **lifted up** is found twice in **John 3:14**: ***“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:”***

first, of the **brazen serpent as a type of Christ** and then of **Christ Himself**.

The lifting up of the serpent of brass before the people, as Christ Himself indicates, was a type of Him as Saviour being lift up on the Cross before the people.

In Scripture the serpent is associated with the curse of sin because of the entrance of the curse into the world through the old serpent, Satan.

Then, brass is that metal which Scripture symbolised divine judgment

The particular meaning of the typology seen by the brazen serpent is that Christ was made a curse for sinners and came under the judgment of God for sinners.

His death was vicarious in nature. He was lifted up in the place of sinners in order to suffer for them and save them from their sins.

Christ who knew no sin became sin for His people, He was made a curse for sinners He came to draw unto Himself by being made a curse for them.

Therefore, believer, what blessed assurance we have in Jesus Christ, the substitute for all who believe in Him.

When Satan tempts you to despair and tells you of the guilt within consider Jesus Christ, who made an end of all our sin.

Remember, rest and rejoice in the shedding of His precious blood, Christ's sufferings are a healing balm for wounded sinners.

There's cleansing and healing for all who will put trust in Him alone.

**C Furthermore, The Manner of Christ's death was Victorious.**

It is interesting to note that the words, **lifted up** literally mean "**to raise high or to lift high**", or **to be exalted**.

Christ therefore, said "**I, if I am exalted—I, if I am lifted on high**."

The same word **lifted up** is also translated in a number of places as **exalted**.

**Acts 2:33** as Peter preaches the Victory of the cross he proclaims Christ “**Therefore, being by the right hand of God exalted...**”

also **Acts 5:31** “**Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.**”

(Peter preaches the triumphant exaltation of Christ to God’s right hand at His ascension.)

From the original meaning of the words **lifted up**, **exalted**, it is clear that the death of Christ was truly victorious in nature.

Christ’s death is victorious over Satan, death, and sin. It is a finished work.

Based on the victory of Christ’s redemptive work on the cross, we can tell sinners of Jesus is the mighty to save.

There is victory in Jesus blood, to deliver sinners from Spiritual darkness, now matter how deep the sin,

no matter how strong the grip of sin on the life,

Jesus lift’s sinners out sin and misery into the light and joy of the gospel.

Believer you have been delivered from sin’s dominion, and darkness. Christ has set you free by gospel power. Hallelujah for the cross.

### **I The Manner of Christ’s Death.**

**II THE MEANING OF CHRIST'S DEATH-** “*will draw all men unto me.*”

When Christ stated that if He is lifted up He *will draw all men.*

He does so emphatically, meaning He and He alone is the only one who can draw sinners to save them, and He saves sinners by His death.

The word “*draw*” means **to draw out** as found in **John 18:10**; it also means **to draw towards** as in **John 21:11**.

The usage of the word indicates the idea of a drawing power or effect.

From the death of Christ there is a drawing power exercised over the hearts and lives of sinners to bring them away from their sin and to draw them toward safety and refuge.

***sinners are drawn by Magnetic power.***

Remember the word **draw** means **to draw towards**. Therefore, the thought is of the attractiveness and the magnetism that results in the Saviour's death.

Christ dying for sinners is the greatest attraction of Christianity.

In the Christian life, there is no Christ without a cross. The Lord's power to draw all men to Himself rests mainly in His death.

While the Lord is pleased to use His servants in preaching of the gospel, yet it is not the man who draws to save but the message.

the message of the finished work of Jesus Christ causes sinners to be attracted to Christ, to be drawn willingly to Him, to trust Him as Saviour.

The proclamation of the crucified Christ has a magnetic, or drawing power on the soul.

As sinners hear redemption's message and brought under conviction of sin they are willingly drawn to Christ, all resistance broken down, the barriers are removed as seen in **Acts 2:37 & 41**.

Peter faithfully preached the crucified Christ, "**now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter, and to the rest of the Apostles, men and brethren what shall we do.**"

the word **pricked** has the idea of **piercing or cutting into**, impact is made and felt.

And you can remember a time in your own life when you were under conviction of sin, you felt the guilt of sin, because your heart was pricked, in other words, the area, of conviction is the human heart, the seat of affections.

You understood you needed a Saviour to save from sin.

unsaved listening, have you ever been there before? are you there now?

Notice, the people cried out **what shall we do**, such a question, we pray that will be spoken by you today, to obey the gospel.

Peter said unto them repent, turn from sin, **v41** "**then they that gladly received His word were baptised and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.**"

The message of Salvation in Christ alone has a magnetic power because it is the message of God's great love for sinners. Christ is the only one who can restore sinners into fellowship with God.

God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. It is only through the lifting up of Christ that sinners can escape the due punishment for their sin.

***Christ's death provides redemption for religious, rebellious and ruined sinners, and draws such to Him.***

Is there one today who has heard the gospel. You had been made aware of your lost condition, oh I plead with you to come to Him at once, because there will be a time when He will be silent, and His drawing power taken away then you will be damned for all eternity.

But in Christ there is a way back into fellowship with God.

***sinners are drawn by miraculous power.***

The word draw is also used in **John 18:10** meaning **to draw out**, we read "**then Simon Peter having a sword drew it.**"

It also means to draw towards as used in **John 21:11** "**Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land full of great fishes.**"

Furthermore, **John 6:44** where the same word is used of the miraculous drawing power of the Father in bringing sinners to Christ.

Listen to the words of Christ, "**no man can come unto me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...**"

The very fact, that Christ says these words teaches that all men and woman are lost in sin, and are unable and unwilling of themselves to come to Christ.

The very fact that Christ draw sinners to Himself, confirms they are at a distance from Him, cut off and separated due to their sin.



That's why Christ said in **John 5:44** "**ye will not come to me that ye might have life,**" why because men and woman want to remain in their sin, and its pleasures.

See how important Christ's words are **except or unless the Father which hath sent me draw him...**" Salvation is Christ choosing to draw sinners to Himself, not sinners choosing Christ.

Christ came into this world in the fulness of time for the purpose to redeem sinners, as the only mediator between God and man, the only Saviour of the world.

God has chosen to save sinners, not by their good works, but rather by Christ's good work, being lifted up to draw sinners to Himself.

**I The Manner and II Meaning of Christ's Death**, Notice:

### **III THE MOTIVE OF CHRIST'S DEATH**

**"Will draw all men unto me."**

The motive of Christ to die was first to honour God, in order to draw all men unto Himself.

To bestow every spiritual blessing upon His people to conform them to His image.

By all men, Christ does not refer to every member of the human race for not all men and woman have faith in Christ.

They have faith in religion, church, works, many things, but not faith alone in Christ alone. full trust in Christ for entrance into heaven.

Rather in keeping with the scriptural context, **Christ will draw all men, sinners who the father has given Him to draw.**

They and they alone are presented before God in glory.

Christ died to save to a multitude of sinners no man can number, as shown by **Rev 7:9**.

From the fall, Christ is drawing sinners from every nation to have eternal life through Him.

Christ will draw all His people to heaven, where He is.

There is hope for sinners in the gospel. By Christ being lifted up He secures and guarantees the salvation of His people from all nations.

Whatever the background,

Christ was lifted up for sinners from every culture, and country.

He was lifted up to save souls in London, confess your sins to Him alone and ask Him to pardon you, and He do so.

Believer Christ's death is love divine so great and wonderful, that caused Him to save a sinful soul like mine.

He was lifted up that I would never be cast into hell.

On this day we gave thanks to God who so loved this world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.