

Three Cross - cont.

... flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh (Romans 8:3)

Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him (2 Corinthians 5:21)

but he, when he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God (Hebrews 10:12)

who his own self bare our sins in his body upon the tree, that we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed (1 Peter 2:24)

Because Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God; being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit (1 Peter 3:18)

How Will You Die?

Having looked at the three men who died on the cross, two robbers and Jesus, the question for us today is: "How will we die?" Jesus has died **FOR** your sin. But how will you die? Will we rebel and die **IN** sin rejecting the gospel invitation (John 8:21,24)? Or, will we repent and die **TO** sin and

Three Crosses - cont.

be baptized (Romans 6:2-11)?

How Will You Be Raised?

The other question for us today is this: How will we be raised?" Jesus was raised three days later. The thief who rebelled will be raised to everlasting judgment (Romans 2:5). The thief who repented went to Paradise with Jesus and he will be raised to everlasting life (Romans 2:7). What about us? We will be raised based upon how we die. - Chris Reeves

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
wbcoc.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 5 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited By
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Three Crosses

And with him they crucify two robbers; one on his right hand, and one on his left - Mark 15:27 -

Three Crosses At Calvary

Jesus was not crucified alone, but with two criminals (Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27; Luke 23:33; John 19:18). This was not an accident, but in fulfillment of Isaiah 53:12 (Luke 22:37; Mark 15:28 [KJV]) which reads:

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors: yet he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

The cross of Jesus was in the middle of the other two crosses.

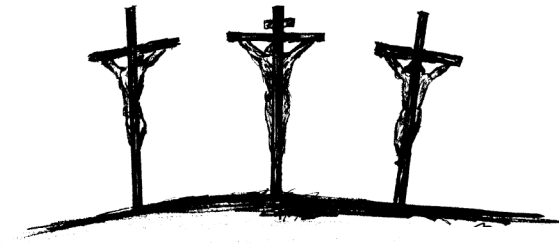
where they crucified him, and with him two others, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst (John 19:18)

The cross of Jesus is the center of all of God's plan to save mankind. On either side of Jesus stood two contrasting approaches to sin. One man died in his sin and the other man died to his sin.

One Man Died **IN** Sin The Cross of Rebellion

One of the thieves died not believing Jesus. He thought mainly of himself. He railed on Jesus. This man died in sin.

And the robbers also that were crucified with him cast upon him the same reproach (Matthew 27:44)



And one of the malefactors that were hanged railed on him, saying, Art not thou the Christ? save thyself and us (Luke 23:39)

In the original Greek language, the words of the robber are in the imperfect tense, meaning that he was repeatedly railing on Jesus. This was certainly a foolish way to die (Hebrew 9:27; 10:26-27).

One Man Died **TO** Sin The Cross of Repentance

The other thief died believing in Jesus. He thought mainly of Jesus. He rebuked the evildoer, he feared God, he acknowledged his own guilt, and he accepted Jesus' innocence and Jesus' kingship. He believed in life after death and he repented and was rewarded. This man died to sin.

But the other answered, and rebuking him said, Dost thou not even fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said, Jesus, remember me when thou comest in thy kingdom. And he said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with me in Paradise (Luke 23:40-43)

One Man Died **FOR** Sin The Cross of Redemption

One man, Jesus, died for the sins of the world. He thought mainly of others. Jesus, our God/Man, died for sin.

But God commends his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful ...