

Speaker: George Hutchison

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Readings: Luke 23:33; Acts 13:26-30; Hebrews 10:12.

Subject: Christ Died, Rose Again and Ascended

### The Death of Christ.

Calvary is only mentioned once by name in the Bible. It tells us of the suffering of Christ and shows the love and salvation of God.

When Christ was crucified, Pilate said that he found no fault in Him. There were two crucified with Him. Both knew that He died but only one found mercy and salvation. The fact of His death is history. Salvation comes when I accept that He died for me. To the woman who touched Him, He said, "Thy faith hath made thee whole, go in peace" (Mark 5:34). David recognised that the Lord is looking for a broken and a contrite heart (Psa 51:17). What God has done in Christ is complete so all man can do is accept it. He calls for men to come and reason so that even sins like scarlet can be cleansed and sins like crimson can be removed like wool (Isa 1:18). In order to know this, we must repent and place faith in Christ for salvation (Acts 20:21). This is illustrated in the two men who prayed in the temple (Luke 18:10-14). The one who was justified is the one who could not lift his eyes to heaven. He wanted mercy and received it because he asked for it as a sinner.

The cross that God is slow to anger and great in mercy (Psa 103:8; 145:8). His mercy cannot be exhausted. It has no beginning and no end. When the Lord said, "It is finished" (John 19:30), it is the same as "paid in full" today. God offers grace which is favour for those who do not deserve it. You have the opportunity to receive the greatest offer that has ever been given to men (Rom 6:23). Have you received it? We cannot explain the grace of God but we have experienced it. The Lord said, "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28). He will not force Himself on you, you must come to Him.

God's promises are based on His power to fulfil them. We need His mercy to pardon so that our sin is forgiven and we do not need to be punished.

Christ died so we could be forgiven. God is ready to forgive. Are you willing to confess you need? There is pardon for every sin if you seek the Lord while He may be found (Isa 55:6). Saul pleaded but he was too late (1 Sam 15:28,29). Felix trembled and said, another time (Acts 24:25). Agrippa said, Almost thou persuadest me (Acts 26:28). As far as we know none were saved. Don't put it off. Ask God to pardon you before it is too late.

### The Resurrection of Christ.

God raised Him from the dead and vindicated every claim He made.

### The Ascension of Christ.

He went to wait until the time for His exaltation. When he comes, all who trust Him will be forever with Him. He could come today and it would then be too late to be saved. You cannot drift into salvation. You must make a move towards Him. The word of God warns us, How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation? (Heb 2:3)