

Facts of the Faith (5) notes

I Corinthians 15:1-8

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Intro—Review:

1. We as Christians believe in one God, the Father.
2. We as Christians believe in one Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

What separates Christ from the rest of the pack:

- I. His divinity.
- II. His humanity.

I John 2:2 “And He Himself is the propitiation (atonement) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

Atonement—The reconciliation of God and humans brought about by the redemptive life and death of Jesus.

I Peter 3:18 “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us (you) to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”

He took our place!

Further evidence of Christ’s superiority over all other religious leaders:

III. His Suffering & Death.

Vs 3 “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures..”

No one has ever suffered more than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!!!

Impossible because:

- He became Sin. **II Corinthians 5:21**
- He experienced the full wrath of God and the wages of sin. **Isaiah 53: 4** “Smitten by God, and afflicted.” **6** “And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” **10** “It pleased the LORD to bruise (Crush) Him; He has put Him to grief.”

The suffering of Christ was so severe that the prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 52:14 “His **visage** (appearance) was marred more than any man, and His **form** more than the sons of men.”

Warren Wiersbe—terribly disfigured, not even [looking human].

The Suffering: Physical suffering, emotional suffering.

A) The Scourging.

Matthew 27:26 “When he had scourged Jesus, He delivered Him to be crucified.”—To whip or lash.

Josephus—1st century Jewish historian spoke of a man in his writings who had been whipped so severely that he was filleted to the bone. Else where he reported that a group of people were whipped until their intestines were exposed.

Beat you with wooden rods.

Roman cat of nine tails. Leather whip with 9 separate strands. At the end of each strand, they would use bone fragments, wood, and metal.

In a second century text named The Martyrdom of Polycarp, the Roman whip is said to expose a person’s veins and arteries.

Video Clip—Scene 16 of the passion.

B) The crucifixion

Michael Licona: “Crucifixion and the torture that many times preceded it may have been the worst way to die in antiquity [ancient times].”

The victim was then taken outside the city walls, where soldiers would use nails to impale him to a cross or a tree. Then he was left in excruciating pain.

Excruciating—Latin term “out of the cross.”

First century philosopher named Seneca described crucified victims as having “battered and ineffective carcasses,” being “maimed,” “misshapen,” “deformed,” “nailed,” and “drawing the breath of life amid long drawn out agony.”—break the knees/ lack of oxygen/ heart attack.

Video clip—Passion Scene 27

All four Gospels report the crucifixion of Christ.

Facts about the death of Christ:

- 1. It was God’s will that Christ be crucified.**

Hebrews 10:10 “By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

- 2. By dying Christ experienced the full punishment for sin.**

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death...”

- 3. His death has permanently made it possible for mankind to have right relationship with God.**

Hebrews 7:25 “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

4. Christ literally died!!!

He has been the only One in history to die for the sins of humanity!!!

Think about this, God knew that it would take a perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind, an animal sacrifice would not do it, a human sacrifice would not do it, it would take a perfect sacrifice, a sinless sacrifice, and the sin debt could only be satisfied by the blood of His perfect, only begotten Son, the One, the Only Jesus Christ. In reality God sent Himself to die for the sins of mankind!!!! WOW!!!!

IV. His Resurrection.

Vs 3, 4 “For I delivered to you first of all that which I received; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

Not only did He die, but He rose from the dead!!!!

Two questions I want you to consider:

A) How do we know that is true?

1. Credibility of Scripture.

Psalms 22 describes the suffering and crucifixion of Christ centuries before it would take place!

2. Credibility of Christ’s prediction.

John 10:17-18 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. **18** No one take it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

Mark 9:31 “The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”

3. Credibility of the eye witnesses.

Vs 5 Peter & the 12 disciples/ Luke 24:34-53

Vs 6 500 Christians at once.

Vs 7 James and the apostles./ Acts 1:2-3 “After He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”

Vs 8 Paul—Damascus Road

4. Credibility of our faith.

I Corinthians 15:14, 17 “And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.”

B) Why is His resurrection so significant?

17 “And if Christ is not risen, your faith is **futile**; you are still in your sins.”

Futile--incapable of producing any result.

Illustration—Going to the plate without a bat.

Quote—“The entire Gospel message of salvation is validated by Christ’s resurrection to life.”

Romans 6:5-10 “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has

been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.”

V. His uniqueness.

Only begotten “Unique, one of a kind.”

“Scripture presents Him as the Son of God, the divine Savior, and the King of kings.”

No other person has ever changed the course of history more than Jesus Christ!!!!

No one has ever been like Him before or since His time on earth. No one will ever be.

History is split in two because of Him.

A) Men can only be saved through Him.

Acts 4:12 “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

B) Men will all one day bow before Him.

Philippians 2:9-11 “Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

C) The Bible tells us that one day all of Heaven will worship Him.

Revelation 5:12 “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”