

This devotional is titled **The Five Wounds of Christ** because the topics for each day center on the five wounds Christ received while on the cross. Each day we will journey through the significance of the specificity of these wounds through their eternal, internal, and external implications. Each day there is a scripture, devotional writing, questions to consider & prayer. The prayers are taken from a collection of Puritan Prayers written in the 18th & 19th centuries.

In addition to a daily devotional, we've included lyrics to 2 songs that we will sing together as a church family this Easter Season. Also, we've included two pages in the middle of this devotional to aid your time at home as a family.

In devoting time and attention to the wounds Christ endured due to our sins, we are able to view His subsequent resurrection through a clearer lens that magnifies the power and meaningfulness of the most important event in history.

We hope this daily devotional guide for Holy Week (*the 7-days leading up to Easter Sunday*) will be a blessing to you in your journey of faith in Christ.

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In Christ Alone

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THE FIVE WOUNDS

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24

Thoughts to Consider

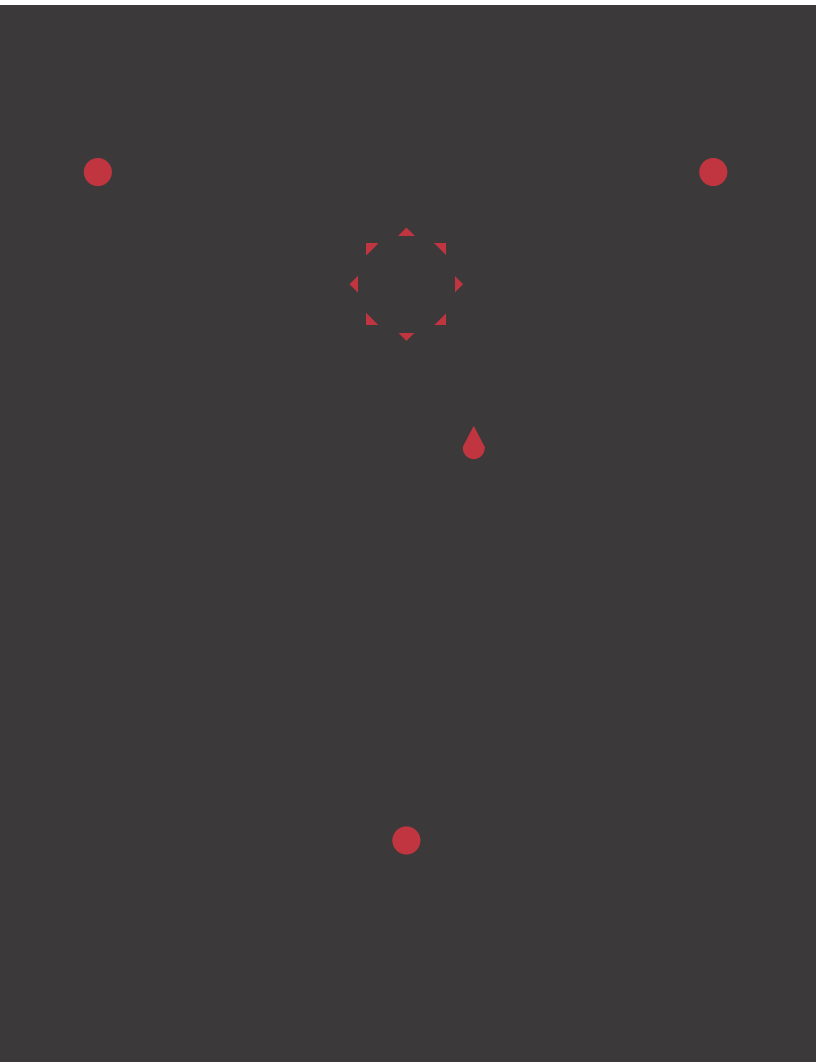
There are a few ways that we can set our minds and hearts in a state of devotion to our Savior, His sacrifice, and His victory this week:

1. Pray that God uses this week to speak to you as an individual. We all will be reading the same words but The Holy Spirit has something specific to say to each of us.
2. Filter your reading through thoughts on God's grace. Christ's suffering was due to our sins but He chose to suffer to save us from those exact sins. And, He didn't just suffer because we are sinful, He suffered to save us because He knew we couldn't save ourselves.

3. Be mindful that Jesus did indeed die and conquer death for all of humanity. However, Jesus also died and conquered death for you personally. Both aspects of this reality are important. Stay conscious of the truth and relevancy of these statements.

4. Meditate each day on 1 Peter 2:24 "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed."

The concept of sacrificial grace bestowed upon us from a perfect God is difficult to understand; because we are born enemies of God, with our sin being a driving force in our lives. God's grace is mysterious but it's also real. Strive to understand this better this week but also be at peace with the mystery of God's powerful love.



Questions to Contemplate

Which truth impacts you more: that Christ died because of you (your personal sin) or Christ died for you (to save you)? Why?

If you were one of the disciples with Jesus, 2,000 years ago, how would you react when Jesus told them He was going to suffer and die? What would you say?

A Prayer

Blessed Lord Jesus,

Before thy cross I kneel and see the heinousness of my sin,
my iniquity that caused thee to be 'made a curse'.

Show me the enormity of my guilt by the crown of thorns,
the pierced hands and feet,
the bruised side,
the dying cries.

Thy blood is the blood of incarnate God,
its worth infinite, its value beyond all thought.

Yet thy compassions yearn over me,
thy heart hastens to my rescue,
thy love endured my curse,
thy mercy bore in the lowest depths of humiliation,
bathed in thy blood,
tender of conscience,
triumphing gloriously as an heir of salvation.

THE FEET

For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet.
Psalm 22:16

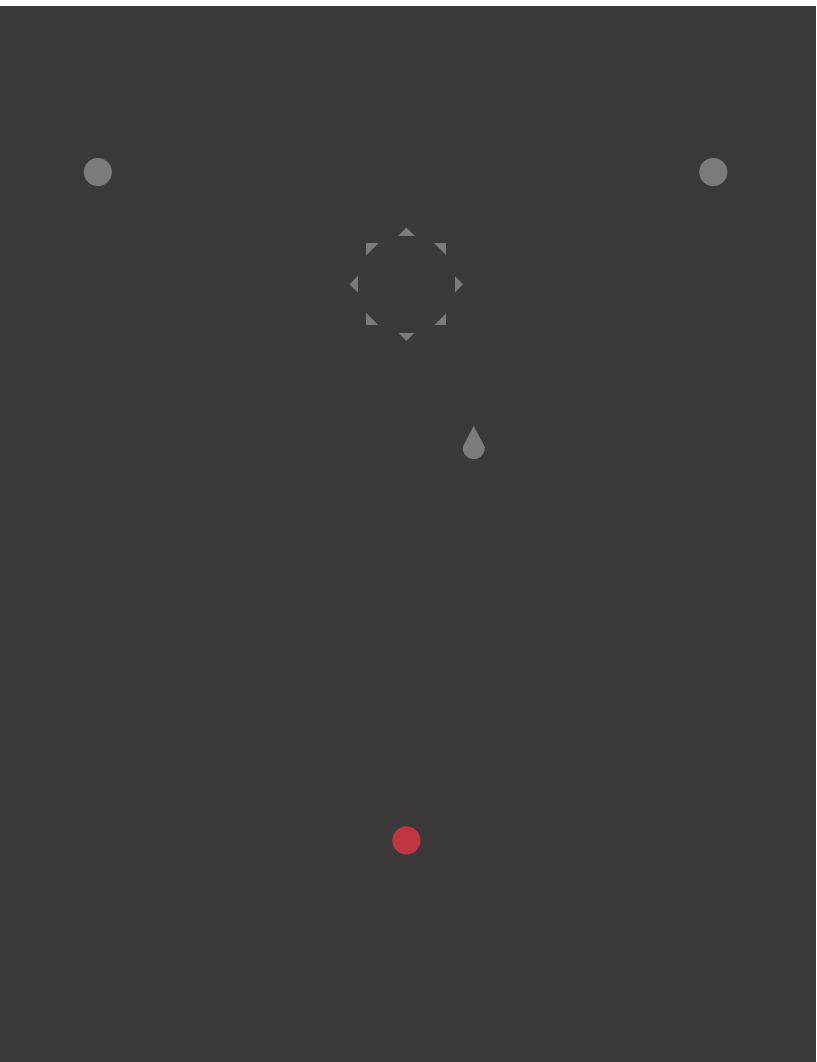
Thoughts to Consider

Feet have many functions but most importantly they allow us to walk. Walking is used many times in the Bible as a metaphor for different aspects of the Christian life. The reality is God came to earth and was born as a human baby named Jesus. He became flesh and put His feet on Earth's soil. Jesus used His feet to travel during His ministry. If you went to Israel today, you can visit the places where Jesus actually walked. Our creator walked on and in His creation. We can visualize Jesus walking, step by painful step, as His feet walked the streets of Jerusalem while carrying a massive wooden cross. He walked as many mocked and beat Him. He walked the entire way knowing what would happen. He walked towards the lowest place a living being can enter: becoming sin, taking on the world's shame, having His Father look away. He did this all by willingly walking towards the top of a hill to have nails pierce His feet to offer His life as a sacrifice

for all. Jesus lowered Himself from heaven to earth. Jesus lowered Himself from earth to death on a cross. Jesus lowered Himself to the grave.

Charles Spurgeon once said: "Oh, the stoop of the Redeemer's amazing love! Let us, henceforth, contend how low we can go side by side with Him, but remember when we have gone to the lowest, He descends lower still, so that we can truly feel that the very lowest place is too high for us, because He has gone lower still."

From the humblest of beginnings by being born in a dirty stable, to the humblest end of willingly dying at the hands of those He loves; Jesus always walked a path far below His heavenly station.



Questions to Contemplate

Jesus willingly walked to His death for His enemies. What do you imagine He was thinking about? If you were in His shoes, what would you be thinking about?

How far would you willingly lower yourself for Jesus? How much would you sacrifice for Him?

A Prayer

O Supreme Moving Cause,
 may I always be subordinate to thee,
 be dependent upon thee,
 be found in the path where thou dost walk,
 and where thy Spirit moves,
 take heed of estrangement from thee,
 of becoming insensible to thy love.

Thou dost not move men like stones,
 but dost endue them with life,
 not to enable them to move without thee,
 but in submission to thee, the first mover.

Let thy love draw me nearer to thyself,
 wean me from sin,
 mortify me to this world,
 and make me ready for my departure hence.

Secure me by thy grace as I sail across this stormy sea.

THE CROWN OF THORNS

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe.

John 19:1

Thoughts to Consider

When we think of crowns we usually visualize famous kings and queens from history or Disney movies. Jesus was forced to wear a painful crown of thorns but the word for “crown” in the New Testament Greek (stephanos) means “a badge of royalty, a prize in the public games or a symbol of honor generally.” Jesus might have been forced to wear the crown of thorns to be mocked, but Jesus allowed Himself to adorn that crown knowing that it would one day be known to the world as the badge of heavenly royalty and honor of the highest order.

In the New Testament there are five crowns that theologians call “The Heavenly Crowns”:

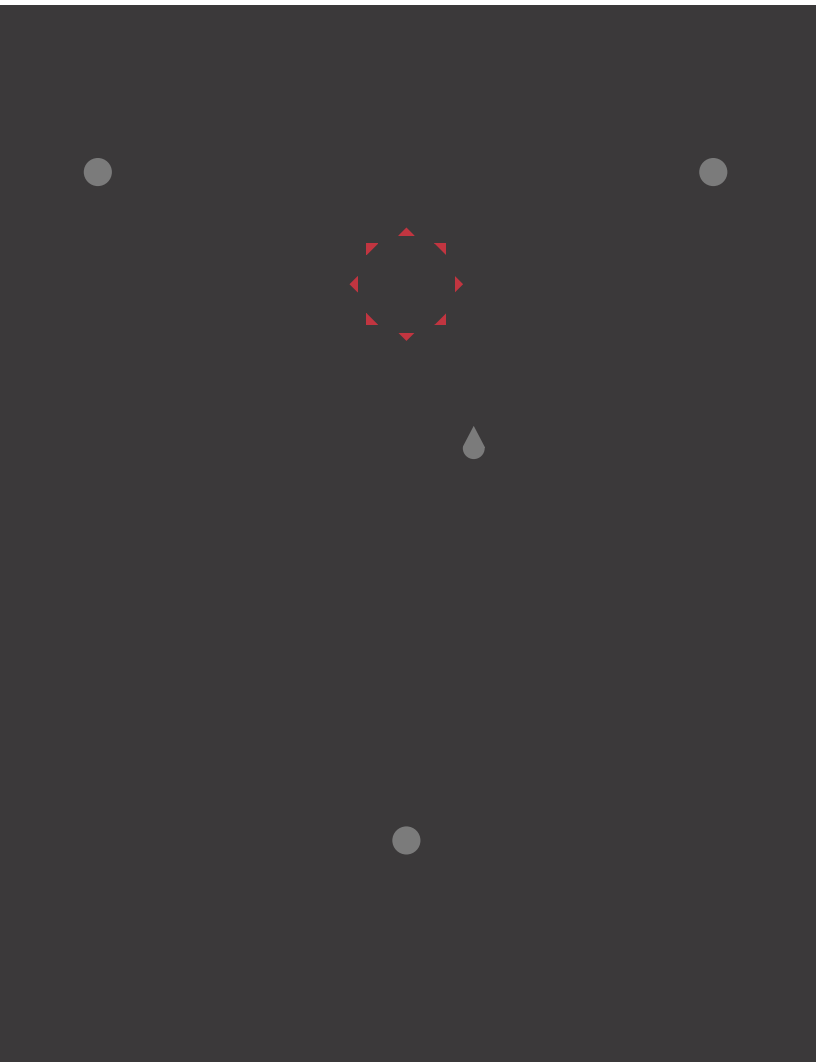
1. The Imperishable Crown – (1 Corinthians 9:24-25) Faithful endurance wins a heavenly and imperishable reward.

2. The Crown of Rejoicing – (1 Thessalonians 2:19) The apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 4:4 to “rejoice always in the Lord” for all of the blessings God has given to us.

3. The Crown of Righteousness – (2 Timothy 4:8) We inherit this crown through the righteousness of Christ; which is the only way we can receive it.

4. The Crown of Glory – (1 Peter 5:4) This crown will be awarded to all those who long for Jesus to return.

5. The Crown of Life – (Revelation 2:10) This crown is for all believers. We receive it when we meet God face to face. We will be given crowns in heaven, due to the only one worthy of receiving a crown: Jesus Christ.



Questions to Contemplate

Out of the 5 heavenly crowns, which one do you believe you are most undeserving to receive? Why?

On earth Jesus received a painful crown of thorns and one day we will receive heavenly crowns. Even so, how does the fact that believers will wear crowns in heaven actually prove Jesus' glory and power?

A Prayer

O Divine Redeemer,

great was thy goodness in undertaking my redemption,
in consenting to be made sin for me,
in conquering all my foes;

Great was thy strength in enduring the extremities of divine wrath,
in taking away the load of my iniquities;

Great was thy love in manifesting thyself alive,
in showing thy sacred wounds,
that every fear might vanish,
and every doubt be removed;

Great was thy mercy in ascending to heaven in being crowned and
enthroned there to intercede for me,
there to succour me in temptation,
there to open the eternal book,
there to receive me finally to thyself;

Great was thy wisdom in devising this means of salvation.

THE LEFT HAND

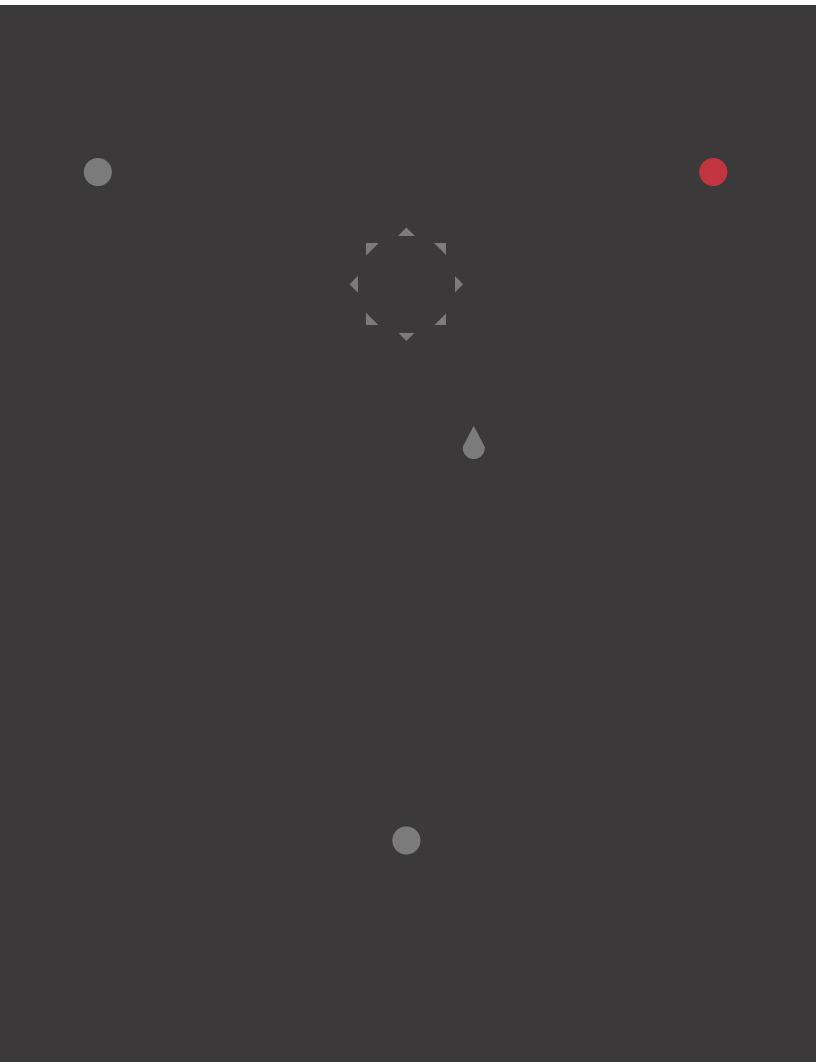
*And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him,
and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.*

Luke 23:33

Thoughts to Consider

Whenever the Bible mentions left-handed people, it does not present left-handedness as a weakness. Ehud, a judge of Israel and a mighty warrior, was left-handed (*Judges 3:15-21*). *Judges 20:16* mentions 700 left-handed warriors who could “sling a stone at a hair and not miss.” When the Bible refers to left-handed people, it speaks of left-handedness as an advantage, not a weakness.

When Jesus was crucified there were criminals at both His right and left sides. One of the criminals mocked and challenged Jesus to save them. The other criminal acknowledged Jesus as Savior and repented. Jesus responds by saying “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise” (*Luke 23:43*). Even with His hands pierced due to sin, including that criminal’s sin, Jesus turned His head and eternally forgave the criminal.



That criminal would never go on to live a repentant life. Jesus knew the criminal would never turn his life around and “sin no more” (*John 8:11*). Yet, in his last moments the criminal repented and Christ, in the middle of His agony, still poured out grace and mercy. The left-handed judge, Ehud, was used by God to save Israel from a reign of evil. Jesus came to save us from sin’s reign. Jesus is constantly delivering us out of bad situations, always knowing we can’t hold up our end of the eternal covenant we have with God. May we think of this in our times of shame and sin: that Jesus knew you wouldn’t be able to live a perfect life and He still willingly suffered to grant you eternal life.

Questions to Contemplate

If Jesus forgives in extreme moments, like that with the criminal, why do we often fear going to Him for repentance? Do you ever struggle with that? What makes it so difficult?

What would you say to Jesus if you were next to Him right now?

A Prayer

O forgive me if I have dishonored thee,
melt my heart,
heal my backslidings.

Thy grace is a powerful incentive to repentance,
and an irresistible motive to inward holiness.

May I never forget that thou hast my heart in thy hands.

Apply to it the merits of Christ's atoning blood whenever I sin.

Let thy mercies draw me to thyself.

Wean me from all evil,
mortify me to the world,
and make me ready for my departure
hence animated by the humiliations of penitential love.

My soul is often a chariot without wheels,

clogged and hindered in sin's miry clay;

Mount it on eagle's wings and cause it to soar upward to thyself.

THE CROSS

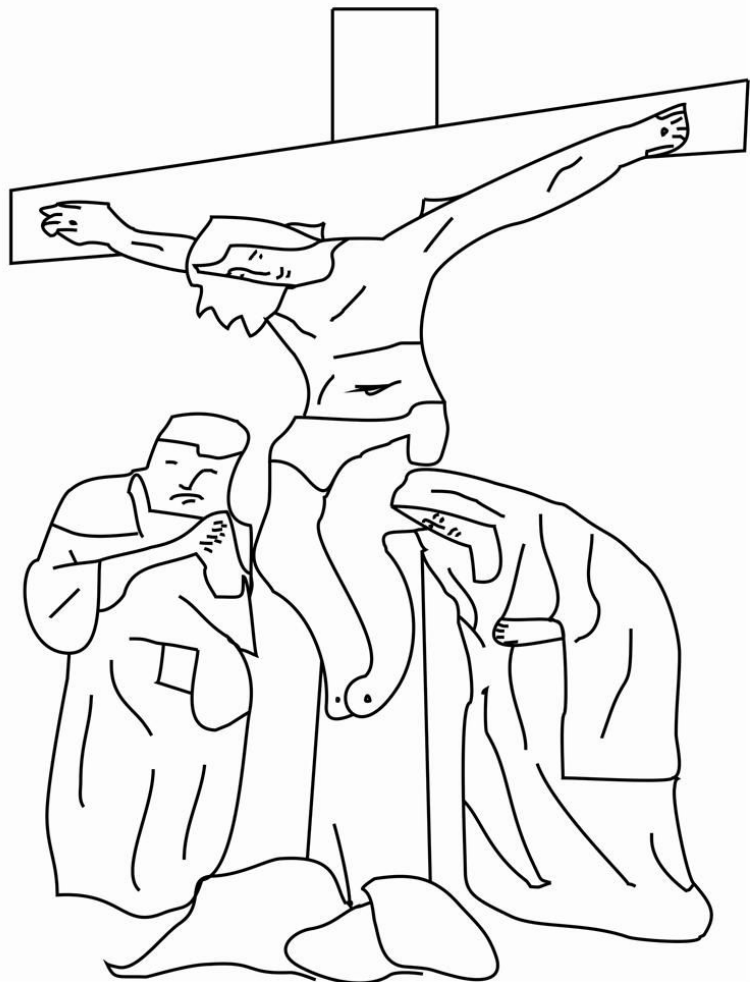
But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed.”
Isaiah 53:5

Questions to Contemplate

Do you know why Jesus died for us?

Since Jesus died for you, He must think you are pretty important.
How do you think Jesus feels about you?

**Feel Free to Color What it May
Have Looked Like for Jesus
to be On The Cross.**



THE RESURRECTION

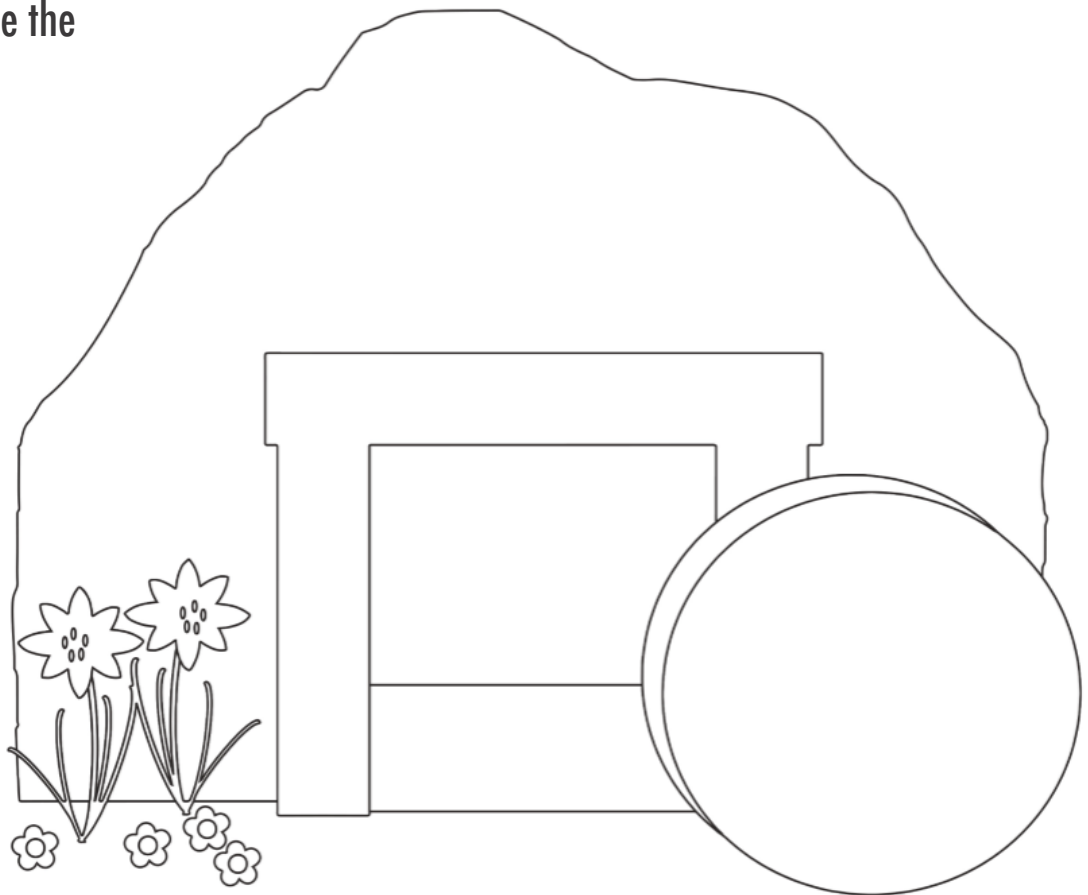
*"He is not here; He has risen, just as he said.
Come and see the place where He lay."
Matthew 28:6*

Questions to Contemplate

What do we have to do to receive salvation from Jesus? Does that seem fair?

Why is it so important that Jesus did not stay dead but came back to life?

**Feel Free to Color What it May
Have Looked Outside the
Empty Tomb**



THE RIGHT HAND

*When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying,
'Fear not, I am the first and the last.*

Revelation 1:17

Thoughts to Consider

A person of high rank who put someone on his right hand gave him equal honor with himself and recognized him as having equal dignity and authority. This is what the Apostle Paul is writing about in Ephesians 1:19-21. Here we see God exalting Jesus above all others by seating Him at the right hand of the Father.

Why is it important for Jesus to sit at God's right hand? The writer to the Hebrews says, "Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost (*at all times*) those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them." (*Hebrews 7:25*). This verse tells us that although Christ's work to secure the salvation of the elect was completed on the cross, His care for His redeemed believers will never be finished. Jesus is the Advocate for Christians, meaning He is our great Defender.

This is the intercessory role He currently fulfills for those who are His (1 John 2:1). Jesus is always pleading our case before the Father, like a defense lawyer on our behalf.

Jesus is interceding for us while Satan (whose name means "accuser") is accusing us, pointing out our sins before God, just as he did with Job (Job 1:6-12). But the accusations are not heard anymore in heaven, because Jesus' work on the cross paid our sin debt in full; therefore, God always sees the perfect righteousness of Jesus when He looks at those that love Him. When Jesus died on the cross, His righteousness was given to us. Now we can go and stand before the throne of God and He will see us as blameless as His Son.

Questions to Contemplate

When Jesus intercedes on your behalf, what do you think He says to defend you? How do you believe Jesus prays for you?

Do you live your life in light of the truth that God sees you as blameless as Jesus? How?

A Prayer

Everlasting Creator-Father,

I have destroyed myself,
my nature is defiled,
the powers of my soul are degraded;
I am vile, miserable, strengthless,
but my hope is in thee.

If ever I am saved it will be by goodness underserved and astonishing.
Thou hast devised means to rescue me from sin's perdition.

I bless thee for the everlasting covenant,
for the appointment of a Mediator.

I rejoice that He failed not,
nor was discouraged
but accomplished the work thou gavest him to do;
and said on the cross, 'It is finished.'

I exult in the thought that thy justice is satisfied,
thy truth established,
thy law magnified,
and a foundation is laid for my hope.

THE PIERCED SIDE

*But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear,
and at once there came out blood and water.*

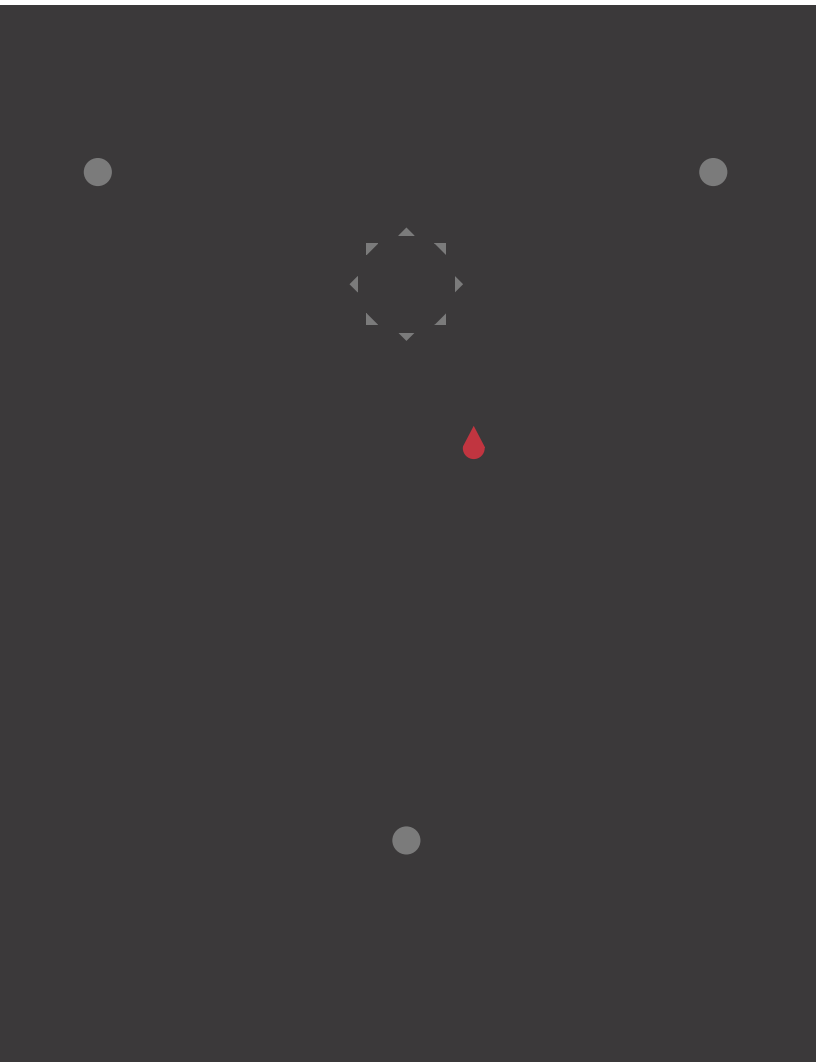
John 19:34

Thoughts to Consider

The Hebrew word translated to “rib” in Genesis 2 is “tsela”. In the Genesis 2 passage, tsela could actually be translated as Adam’s “side”. If the appropriate translation is that God removed Adam’s side, it is possible that Eve was constructed literally from half of Adam. This would bring added meaning to Adam’s declaration that Eve was “bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh” (*Genesis 2:23*).

Whether God created Eve from Adam’s rib or from his whole side, He accomplished the act in such a way that showed that women and men complement each other within the union of marriage. Woman was created to be “beside” man, not beneath or above him. In salvation, men are not more worthy than women. “There is neither . . . male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (*Galatians 3:28*). They stand side-by-side as fellow

“heirs . . . of the gracious gift of life” (*1 Peter 3:7*). Adam and Eve had the first godly marriage. There are many passages that compare marriage to the relationship between Christ and the Church. Christ, the Bridegroom, has sacrificially and lovingly chosen the church to be His bride (*Ephesians 5:25-27*). There was a betrothal period in biblical times; which had the bride and groom separate until the wedding. The bride of Christ (the church) is also separated from her Bridegroom during the church age. Her responsibility during the betrothal period is to be faithful to Him (*Ephesians 5:24*). In the end, the eternal union of Christ and His bride will be actualized (*Revelation 21:1-2*). That is only possible due to Christ’s wounds on our behalf that allowed a way for God’s relationship with the church to be redeemed.



Questions to Contemplate

Have you ever been a part of a church/church event where you felt it was truly the bride of Christ? What about that church/church event made you feel that way?

How will the church's relationship with Jesus change once the betrothal separation period is over and we are finally united together with Jesus? What do you believe that will be like?

A Prayer

Lord God Almighty,

thou hast reconciled thyself to the world through the cross.

Thou hast taught me the necessity of a Mediator,

to be embraced in love with all my heart,

and this by faith in thy beloved Son

who teaches me not to guide myself,

not to obey myself,

but to cleave to the one who will do all for me.

Thou hast made known to me that to save me is Christ's work,

but to cleave to him by faith is my work,

with the necessity of repentance

as a mourning for the sin

which Christ by grace has removed.

Help me to live always near the cross.

THE RESURRECTION

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen..."

Matthew 28:5-6

Thoughts to Consider

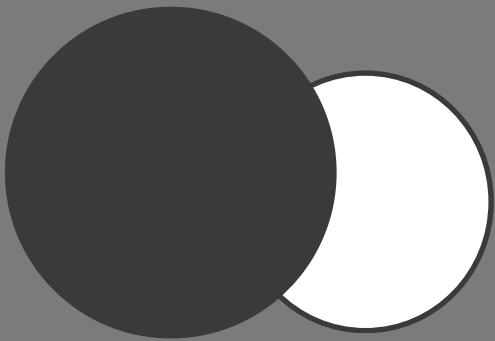
Jesus was killed but Jesus also conquered death through His bodily resurrection. Jesus now has an imperishable heavenly body while still having a physical body. He is not a disembodied spirit, He is still human and has a human body in heaven right now, but His body is now made with eternal purpose. However, despite Jesus having an imperishable eternal body, Jesus still bears His wounds. Why is this? Why didn't Christ heal His wounds when He rose again? We will cover three reasons. First is so His disciples, followers, and family could identify Him after His resurrection. The second reason is that we will love, praise, and worship Jesus in heaven for eternity, and when we look at His wounds we will always be filled with joy knowing His goodness and power. The third reason described by Charles Spurgeon again: "another reason why Jesus wears his wounds is, that when he intercedes he may employ them as powerful advocates.

When he rises up to pray for his people, he need not speak a word; he lifts his hands before his Father's face; he makes bare his side, and points to his feet. These are the orators with which he pleads with God—these wounds."

This is a beautiful picture of how Jesus used the worst thing in history (Son of God wounded and killed) to do the best thing in history (conquer death through the resurrection, sit at God's right hand, and intercede for us through the power in His sacrificial wounds).

His wounds have healed you so that sin and death are defeated and you can live a life of righteousness. Go and do so.

Amen.



Questions to Contemplate

Have you ever thought about what it will be like when you finally get to see Jesus? What do you think that will be like?

Due to Christ's wounds, death, and resurrection those who are saved will never spiritually die or go to hell. No matter what happens to your life while on earth, your eternal destination in heaven is secure. With that truth in mind, examine your life and heart. If you were a different person and you looked at your life, would you see that you believe that to be true?

A Prayer

Jesus strides forth as the victor,
conquerer of death, hell, and all opposing might;
He bursts the bands of death, tramples the powers of darkness,
and lives forever.

He, my gracious surety, comes forth from the prison house of the grave
free, and triumphant over sin, Satan, and death.

Give me the assurance that in Christ I died, in Him I rose,
in His life I live, in His victory I triumph,
in his ascension I shall be glorified.

Thou, who as Man of sorrows was crowned with thorns,
art now as Lord of life wreathed with glory.

Once, no shame more deep Than thine,
no agony more bitter, no death more cruel.

Now, no exaltation more high, no life more glorious,
no advocate more effective.

Thy death is my life, thy resurrection my peace,
thy ascension my hope, thy prayers my comfort.

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live, I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

I will stand
I will stand
all other ground is sinking sand
All other ground,
all other ground
Is sinking sand, is sinking sand
So I'll stand

written by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

