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- We can also be found on Facebook (Jones Road Church of Christ) and Twitter (@jonesroadchurch). Email: [study@jonesroadchurch.org](mailto:study@jonesroadchurch.org)

## Please Join us for Bible Study and Worship

Sundays

9:30am - Bible Study

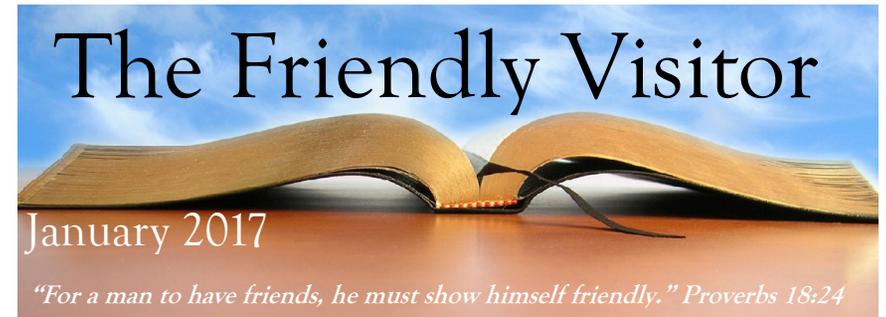
10:20am & 5pm - Worship

Wednesdays

7pm - Bible Study

## Jones Road Church of Christ

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## Does the Love of Christ Compel Us?

By John R. Gibson

*“For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” 2 Corinthians 5:14, 15*



The love of Christ, especially as seen in the cross, should be a compelling force in our lives. Because the sacrificial love of Christ can have such a great influence in our lives we need to think about Calvary often. When we consider how powerful that story can be, it is no surprise God's people are instructed to pause each week and remember that death in the eating of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26). This article is intended to set before us the love of Jesus in such a way that it might have the effect God intends, not only as we eat the Lord's Supper, but every day. As we meditate on the sufferings of our Lord as He went from Gethsemane to Calvary, it behooves us to remember that He went to the cross because of our sins and in order to bring us reconciliation, forgiveness, peace, etc. (Isaiah 53:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; et al).

Throughout this brief study, keep in mind two important facts. First, Jesus of Nazareth was completely innocent of any sin or wrong doing (Hebrews 4:15). Second, He willingly partook of these sufferings because of His love for us (John 10:10–18).

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“But He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,  
And by His stripes we are healed.”  
Isaiah 53:5



For the sake of space we will not attempt to cite the specific references to each facet of Christ's suffering on our behalf, but we urge you to carefully read and meditate on Matthew 26:36–27:50; Mark 14:32–15:37; Luke 22:39–23:46; John 18:1–19:37.

### **See the Loving Lord Betrayed By His Friends**

After having spent approximately 3 years with the Lord, Judas identified Jesus by the most unholy kiss ever given. Using an act universally associated with friendship, Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus to the authorities. But Judas was not the only friend to fail the Lord that night. The other disciples were asked by Jesus to watch with Him in prayer, but instead allowed their sorrow to cause them to fall asleep. Then, when Christ was arrested, after a brief moment of courage on the part of Peter, the eleven apostles were said to have “forsook Him and fled.” Though Peter and John seem to have quickly regrouped and followed Jesus to the house of the high priest, once there, Peter denied the Lord three times.

The next morning Jesus suffered the humiliation of hearing the crowd request the release of a murderer and demand His crucifixion. Though we have no specific information on the make-up of “the howling mob,” it would seem almost certain that it included many who had welcomed Him with Hosannas five days earlier and had eagerly listened to His teachings that final week. The greatest friend man has ever known was truly hurt by His friends.

### **See God's Holy One Treated Like a Criminal**

Jesus Himself asked, “Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me?” His enemies sent a large contingent of soldiers and police to arrest one who was kind, gentle, and willing to go peacefully. After arresting Jesus, they bound Him as though the one who had willingly surrendered Himself might try to escape. Through that night and the next morning, He was repeatedly labeled an evildoer despite the lack of evidence against Him. Even when He was put to death, they placed Him between two robbers as if He were just another criminal receiving His just reward.

### **Be Shocked at the Cruelty and Mockery Jesus Experienced**

During the night the captors blindfolded Jesus and played a cruel game in which they struck Him and then taunted Him to prophesy and identify the one who had hit Him. During this cruel mockery they also spat on Him. The next morning Herod and his troops had their fun as they dressed Jesus in a gorgeous robe and mocked Him. These make us shudder, but the cruelest mockeries were still to come. After Jesus had been

scourged, the Roman soldiers put a “royal” robe around Jesus, wove a crown of thorns for Him and placed a reed in His hand to serve as His scepter. The soldiers then mocked Him by bowing before Him and tauntingly calling Him king. They also spat on Him and took the reed and struck Him on the thorn-crowned head. Following this, Jesus was taken to Calvary to be crucified and in His dying hours the taunts continued, “If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross....He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him come down from the cross and we will believe Him.”

### **Feel Some of the Pain the Lord Felt**

Before the crucifixion Christ experienced a beating that by itself could be enough to bring death to its victim. The Roman scourge, with metal and/or bone in the leather thongs, would cut the skin, sometimes so deeply that internal organs were exposed. After this horrific beating, Jesus had His cross laid on His own back that He might bear it to the place of execution. We do not know how far he carried it before Simon of Cyrene had to finish, but every step He made must have involved an unspeakable agony. Then at Golgotha, Jesus experienced one of the cruelest deaths ever devised. Nailed by His hands and feet to a wooden cross, our Lord endured six hours of torture before it was finished and He yielded His spirit to God.

### **Rejoice With the Lord**

It is imperative we understand and more deeply appreciate what our Lord endured for us, but we must not stop at Calvary. Three days later the tomb was empty; and almost six weeks later Jesus ascended into heaven where, having been given the name which is above every name, He became Lord of lords and King of kings. In His death the price of redemption was paid, and in His resurrection and exaltation the victory was assured. The key now is allowing the story of the cross to move us to follow Jesus and share in that victory. May God help us all to examine carefully the compulsion the cross has on us. Is the one who suffered for us our Savior? *“He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”* (Hebrews 5:8, 9).

All quotes are from the New King James Version, copyright 1995, Thomas Nelson, Inc.

**“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8**