







THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

THE TRINITY IN CHRIST'S SUFFERING EPHESIANS 2:11-18

The whole Trinity was present Amid Christ's suffering and agony.

WEEK 8

Like you, I deeply appreciate Holy Week, the week that we reflect on the passion of Christ, beginning with the Triumphal Entry to the resurrection. Good Friday has always been significant to me. The willingness of Jesus, in His innocence, to suffer for my sins and pave the way for my reconciliation to the Father is a profound mystery I will never be able to comprehend and, simultaneously, the most meaningful reality in my life. While we rightly focus on Christ's suffering, we need to remember that the whole Trinity was present during Jesus' agony on the cross. Considering the perspective of the Father and the Spirit during Christ's crucifixion is essential because it gives us a broader understanding of the Godhead's engagement in our redemption. Everything we are and have in God results from the working of the Father, the Spirit, and the Son. Remember that you are worshiping Three in One as you worship God. While the Son paid the ultimate price for our salvation, all were intimately involved in the most profound demonstration of love known to humanity. As we reflect on this, we can say with the utmost certainty that God is love!

(10 min) OPENING PRAYER

Pray that God will permeate your time with His presence. Ask Him to give you spiritual insight and wisdom into the beauty of the Trinity and how each member of the Triune Godhead was engaged in rescuing your soul.

(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. The Father was present during Christ's suffering on the cross. It was the Father who had lovingly sent the Son and guided Him through His earthly ministry. It was the Father who delivered Him up to this moment when Jesus Christ died as a substitute for the sins of mankind. The Father never left the Son. Reflect on this. Write down those thoughts that come to your mind as you consider the great love the Father has for you and Christ, His Son.

Romans 8:32 "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all."

2. When Jesus spoke to His disciples about the coming of the Holy Spirit, He referred to the Spirit as One who would help them and be a constant companion. Jesus was speaking from experience. As you survey the Scriptures, the Spirit was the constant companion to Christ from the incarnation to the resurrection. He was helping Jesus fulfill the will of the Father. Reflect on this. What insights do you gain concerning the Holy Spirit and how He helps you?

Hebrews 9:14 "How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

3. Ephesians 2:11-18 powerfully conveys the many things that Christ accomplished on the cross for our sake. Based on the teaching, highlight what ministers to you the most about what Jesus did for you through His suffering.

Colossians 2:13 "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross."

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: John 17:1-2 "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him."

EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER: Spend time as a life group praying and discussing the key things that emerge from your discussion of this week's questions. Spend extended time discussing the Trinity and the involvement of each person in the Godhead in your redemption.

(5 min) LIVE IT

Be intentional about centering each day this week around the presence of Christ in your life. Begin each day in prayer and dedicate daily time to reading Scripture. Reflect this week on the love amongst the Trinity and how that love has reached you and formed the basis for your life. Receive that love and extend it to others this week.