



death by love

1. What do you make of Jesus?

Mark 15:1-20

- Unless we have a right understanding of Jesus we will never appreciate what he did
- 1. The Crowd – failing to appreciate**
 - a) Religious people – Jesus upset their efforts at self-salvation (v1)**
 - Religion is about living up to a certain standard; Christianity is about the standard being too high, but Jesus keeping it for you
 - Religious people often don't like hearing about Jesus because he undermines their sense of achievement
 - Jesus came to set us free from the performance treadmill.
 - b) Pilate – rejects Jesus out of fear of others v2-5, 15**
 - Impressed by Jesus, but afraid of the crowd, of the consequences
 - Are we afraid of others? What they might think?
 - c) Jews – other problems were more pressing v6-14**
 - Saw biggest problem as the Roman occupation, instead of their own status before God. Choose the immediate over the eternal
 - d) Soldiers – just getting on with life v16-20**
 - Why did they ignore Jesus? Quite simply, they didn't think
 - The distraction of the ordinary robs us of our appreciation of Jesus
 - Each should have admitted his importance, and their need of him
- 2. The Crook – should have appreciated Jesus**
 - He saw Jesus take his place and die the death he should have died
 - I am Barabbas, you are Barabbas – a rebel deserving death
 - We need to realise this more and more
 - 3. The Crown – help for appreciating Jesus**
 - v16-20 - See Jesus battered to a pulp, then crowned with thorns
 - a) The crown is a picture of what sin pretends to offer**
 - Sin promises that we can rule our own lives – doesn't admit the damage
 - b) The crown is a picture of what Jesus took in my place**
 - He set aside his rightful crown to wear my rightful crown, so that I could have the right to wear his
 - Thorns = sign of God's wrath (Gen 3:18)
 - Jesus takes wrath I deserve, so I can have a crown I don't deserve
 - c) The crown is a prophecy of what will happen**
 - They mocked, but how little they knew
 - He is the great King who will return, and every knee will bow
 - Are we ready for his return? We will only be ready to look at him then, we will appreciate him aright now.



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S E R V I N G J E S U S C H R I S T T H E K I N G

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Sabbath 4th January 09

Happy New Year!!

Notices

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|
| Sab 4 th | Evening service in Milford church | 8pm |
| Tue | Prayer time this week at Colin & Caroline's | |
| 6-8 Feb | Adult Conference - Portrush
Theme - Developing a Vision for Mission - Rev Warren Peel
Application forms available | |

Please speak to Caroline if you would like to receive either the Messenger or Covenanter Witness magazines

Application forms for the Summer missions (GO) teams are available.

If you would like to receive bible reading notes for this year there is a sign up sheet for Let's worship God (Airdrie RP Church's own reading notes). Also some sample copies. €15 for the year. Notes can also be freely downloaded from www.airdrierpcs.org/pubs.php

CDs of the Jacob sermon series are available - please speak to Mark if you would like the series, or individual sermons.

Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, or to refresh your memory, and to find answers to your questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

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Oversight elders: Graham Fallows 048 7130 1641 William Lynch 048 7139 8002