

The Passion Of Christ

John Isaac Edwards

The book of Acts opens with Luke, the inspired historian, recounting the post-resurrection appearances of Christ unto the apostles “after his passion” (Acts 1:1-3). This article reflects the Biblical view of the passion or suffering of Christ.

1) ***The Passion Was Prophesied.*** The prophets “testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow” (1 Pet. 1:11). Isaiah 53, the heart of all prophecy, given some 700 years before Christ, is a divine prediction of the passion of Christ. Apostolic witnesses affirmed, “But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled” (Acts 3:18). These fulfilled prophecies are undeniable proof that “the prophecy came not in old time

by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pet. 1:21).

2) ***The Passion Was Voluntary.*** The life of Jesus was not taken from Him; it was freely and willingly given. Jesus said, “Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh 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” (Jn. 10:17-18). What a blessing that Christ “hath given himself for us” (Eph. 5:2)!

3) ***The Passion Was A Manifestation Of Divine Love.*** The love of God toward man was plainly demonstrated in the suffering of Christ. “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into

the world, that we might live through him” (1 Jn. 4:9). O, what wondrous love!

4) ***The Passion Was The Ransom For Sin.*** God “sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 Jn. 4:10). It is “by the death of his Son” and “by his blood” that sinful man is “saved from wrath,” “reconciled” unto God, and receives “atonement” (Rom. 5:6-11). We avail ourselves of the benefits of the passion blood by being “baptized into his death,” where He shed His blood (Rom. 6:3-4; Jn. 19:33-34), and continuing to “walk in the light” (1 Jn. 1:7). In the words of the song, “I gave My life for thee, My precious blood I shed, That thou might’st ransomed be, And quickened from the dead; I gave, I gave My life for thee, What hast thou giv’n for me?”

Thank You!

I would like to express our deepest gratitude for every thought, word, and act of kindness during the terrible tragedy that resulted in the loss of my sister Adria’s life and serious injury of my sister Rebekah. Rebekah is currently being treated at the Atlanta Medical Center, 303 Parkway DR NE, Atlanta, GA 30312. Please continue to remember Rebekah in your prayers for healing of body and mind as well as my parents, Johnie Paul & Melba, as they bear this unimaginable tragedy. Cards may be sent to: Johnie Paul & Melba Edwards, POB 534, Ellettsville, IN 47429. Send to Rebekah in care of them. Pending funeral arrangements for Adria are being handled by Chandler Funeral Home, 203 E Temperance ST, Ellettsville, IN. <http://www.chandlerfh.com> (812) 876-6075.

Help, Preacher Can't Find Bible!

John Isaac Edwards

There are some things I have not been able to preach because I have not found Bible for them. Can you help me find Bible...

1) *Teaching A Child Is Born With The Guilt Of Sin?*

Where is the passage that teaches a child is born into this world with the guilt of sin upon his soul? The Bible says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son..." (Ezek. 18:20).

2) *Giving Women The Right To Be Preachers, Elders, Or Deacons?*

I read of "Philip the evangelist" in Acts 21:8; where do you read of Philis the evangelist? Do not the

qualifications of elders and deacons in 1 Timothy 3 call for "a man" who is "the husband of one wife" (vv. 1-2, 8, 11-12)?

3) *Affirming Salvation By Faith Only?*

It gives some great comfort to think they are saved by faith alone. I have not been able to preach this, as I have not been able to locate a passage of Scripture that teaches such. James said, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (Jas. 2:24).

4) *Allowing Sprinkling Or Pouring In Place Of Baptism?*

I find where there was "much water" (Jn. 3:23), Jesus came up "out of the water" (Mt. 3:16), the man of Ethiopia came unto a certain water, went down with

the preacher into the water and came up out of the water (Acts 8:36-39), and Paul talked about being "buried" and "planted" with the Lord in baptism (Rom. 6:3-5). Where do you find Bible for sprinkling or pouring?

5) *Showing That Once A Person Is Saved From His Past Sins, He Cannot So Sin As To Be Eternally Lost?*

Why am I warned to "take heed" (Heb. 3:12) and exhorted to "be faithful" (Rev. 2:10), if it is impossible to depart from God and the crown of life will be given unconditionally?

I am pleading with you to please help find Bible for the things being widely taught and practiced in the religious world today.

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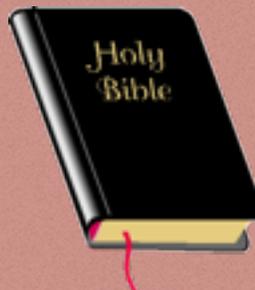
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