

LOVE—NOT NAILS—HELD CHRIST ON THE CROSS!

By Keith Greer

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” {Romans 5:6-8}

Love is a word, and an expression, that our culture tosses around freely. There are different types of love: (1) Marital love that spouses have for one another. (2) Love that exists between parents and children. (3) Love that is part of our relationships with our brethren. But all of these pale in comparison to the love Christ had for us when He died on the cross. Why?

He gave Himself willingly. Listen to His prayer in the garden, prior to His betrayal and scourging. “He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.’” {Matthew 26:39} When He stood before Pilate, He offered no defense and made no plea for mercy. He took up the cross because of His love for His Father and for sinful men.

He could have saved Himself. “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.” {Matthew 27:42} The man who had done so many great miracles could have come down from the cross, but He did not. He could have called twelve legions of angels to rescue Him, but He did not. Our Savior’s love—not the nails they drove into His hands and feet—kept Him on the cross. Sinful mankind needed a remedy for sin, and God provided it by offering His Son to die on the cross. Jesus knew He was the only one who could provide the necessary remedy!

One other point. Jesus was also going to be obedient to finish the work His Father sent Him to accomplish. He was obedient to the end! Yes, this world is filled with many examples of love. But none can match the depth and sacrifice of what our Lord did on the cross. To God be the glory! ***