

LESSON 8



JESUS WAS CONSECRATED

Scripture Texts: *Isaiah 50:6; 2 Corinthians 8:9; John 10:17-18; John 17:18-19; Matthew 26:39, 53,54; Romans 5:19; Hebrews 12:2*

Jesus Christ did a marvelous work in this world when He made through Himself a way for sinners to be saved and reach Heaven. Before He came to do that work a decision had to be made. He did not have to come. He did not have to die. He decided to do it. In unity with the Father and the Holy Spirit He committed, or dedicated, Himself to the project of the plan of salvation for mankind.

MEMORY VERSE: *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

John 15:13

His Sanctification

Isaiah 50:6 I gave my back to the smiters . . . my cheeks . . . my face . . . Isaiah prophesied of this part of Christ's consecration. Jesus GAVE. He was not forced. He consecrated Himself to suffer it. This prophecy is fulfilled in Matthew 26:47 to 27:50.

Second Corinthians 8:9 He was rich . . . he became poor . . . We can only vaguely picture the vastness of this move. We never saw the riches of Heaven. He voluntarily left it all to come to a world made destitute by the poverty of sin. **That ye . . . might be rich.** What immeasurable love! The Creator gave all to help His rebelling creation. Why didn't He just scrap it as we would a cracked dish? Because of love. He had put immortal existence into His creatures and could not bear for them to spend it in hell. **Ye know the grace . . .** Christ was putting into action His principle of grace—the outpouring from divine life without charge to benefit mankind (a free gift).

He Gave His Life

John 10:17-18 Jesus came knowing He would die for mankind. It was His choice. He lived a human life. He died a human death, a shameful death, **even the death of the cross** (Philippians 2:8). He did this by His own will and commitment. Jesus had His freedom of choice.

John 17:18-19 **As thou hast sent me . . .** His coming was the joint plan of the Trinity. **For their sakes**—all are invited to be saved and to have a part. He gave Himself, set Himself apart for this one purpose. **Sanctified through the truth.** The sanctifying agent that God uses is His Word, God's message set forth in the Bible to guide every yielded heart. The world has its own methods of improvement. Never has humanity been so bent on improving itself as now. But society puts its trust in politics, in human goodness, in social and racial tolerance, and in better living conditions. All these are commendable, but they are roots that bring forth bitter fruit. All sound human improvement must start with the truth, God's message spoken by the Holy Spirit to the open, hungry heart. Christ sanctified Himself for us; we must sanctify ourselves for others. We must be sanctified by the acceptance of divine truth. There is no other basis for human improvement but through obedience of God's Word unto salvation. All other schemes will prove ineffective.

Victory

Matthew 26:39 Jesus' human nature shrank from suffering the Cross. His divine nature overcame the flesh. He obeyed what the Father and He had agreed upon. **O my Father . . . nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.** Jesus' prayer meant God's will must be done, and He intended to do it with all His heart, mind, and strength. Once a man has taken this attitude, the suffering for the cause of Jesus takes on a new and different aspect. When the purpose to glorify and demonstrate the power of God grips one's soul, suffering loses its pain and power to defeat him.

Matthew 26:53-54 Twelve legions of angels were at His command had He decided to return to Heaven and let the world go. He could have done so. That would have voided the many former prophecies promising salvation. His love did not allow Him to do that.

Romans 5:19 By one man's disobedience—that is, Adam's—**many were made sinners.** The blight of sin and death that fell on all mankind brought grief to the heart of God. Because the Father loved the world He gave His Son. The Son loved likewise and gave Himself in obedience to God's plan in order that sinners might **be made righteous.** Because of His obedience the whole glorious New Testament became a reality. God proved His love for the world by giving His Son. We show our love to God by believing and keeping His commandments (John 14:15, 23, 24).

Hebrews 12:2 For the joy . . . endured the cross . . . is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. This is the crowning of complete victory. Jesus did not win this victory for Himself alone. It was for many. It was not easy. **He hath poured out his soul unto death. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied . . .** (Isaiah 53:10-12). When He said, **It is finished,** it was victory, and He gained His possession. He was rewarded with a seat with His **Father in his throne** (Revelation 3:21). We, too, can be overcomers. Repent, confess sins, take Jesus as our Sacrifice, die to self, yield all to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me** (Matthew 16:24).

JUST A THOUGHT

**People seldom lose their salvation by a blowout;
usually it's just a slow leak.**