

Jesus' Suffering and Death (Devotional)

In the *Book of Hebrews* chapter 2 verse 9 the Hebrews writer says, ***“But we see Jesus, Who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.”*** How easy is it to give one's life for somebody else? The Apostle Paul pondered this question in Romans 5:7 when he said, ***“Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man – though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die.”***

It is not easy to die for anyone! Humanly speaking it is certainly nigh on impossible to think about laying down one's life for unworthy and sinful mankind!

Once again, let us ponder this most striking text. ***“But we see Jesus, Who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.”***

Only Jesus Who is both God and Man can attempt and accomplish the impossible. Only Jesus, filled with love and compassion for all of mankind, can endure suffering and death for us.

The grace of God reminds us that we, who are sinners, are totally undeserving beneficiaries. God's grace teaches us much about the God of our salvation, especially about His love. As Paul says in the very next verse to the Romans, ***“But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”*** (Romans 5:8) We did nothing to earn this love, and we can do nothing to earn God's love or grace.

When the Hebrews writer says, ***“He might taste death for everyone,”*** the writer is giving us a beautiful description that speaks of Jesus as our Substitute. Christ had paid sin's penalty of “death” through His own suffering and death. “Death” has no more power over all who are justified by Christ through His death. The individual, however, must appropriate personally the significance of Christ's death through exercising obedient, saving faith in Jesus as Savior. Only then will one obtain God's mercy. And one demonstrates one's obedience by confessing Jesus as our Lord and Savior before men (Romans 10:9-10) upon hearing the good news of Jesus Christ (Romans 10:17), repenting of our sins (Acts 2:38), and acting out the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus by submitting to be buried with Him in the watery grave of baptism (Romans 6:3-4). If we are faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10) then we will hear Jesus proclaim to us before His Father, ***“Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your Master”*** (Matthew 25:23).