

"WEEKLY WISDOM"
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For The Week of 03.29.10

"JOHN 3:16 - 3 NAILS • 1 SAVIOR • 6 HOURS ON THE CROSS"

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Many years ago as a sinner, I who had never heard the gospel knew nothing about the Bible, nor did I know anything about Jesus Christ. I used to always see someone in a crowd on T.V. holding up a sign with "John 3:16" written on it. I had no idea what it meant. I used to think that it had something to do with a guy named John, but wondered who this guy was and what was the 3:16 thing all about? Was it a certain time? As crazy as that may sound to some, this is where my understanding was at the time. Having never read a Bible I had no idea there were different chapters and verses. This is a good reminder to us all that not everyone knows about the work of salvation, in fact many have no idea at all how to get to heaven. So don't take for granted that people do.

Recently this verse has been a focus of mine. Because it is so well known amongst Christians, like many things we have heard over and over it doesn't have the impact on most as it should when it is read. I had been meditating on how God demonstrated true love for us through His Son dying on the cross to change our lives forever. I know that when originally written there were no chapters or verses, but in my walk as a believer I have seen some pretty awesome things that are revealed that I fully believe are not coincidence. For example John 6:66 tells us that many of Jesus' disciples left Him and followed Him no more. A work of the enemy for sure in which the number for the antichrist is 666. There are other things quite amazing that relate to chapters and verses in the Bible as well.

As I was pondering on this verse John 3:16 the Lord just opened my eyes up to this phrase, "Three nails, one Savior, six hours on the cross". I began to meditate on this phrase. I want to share with you what I believe is without a doubt one of the most significant verses in all of scripture that reveal all that Christ has done, all found in these three numbers. Let's begin with the three nails that were used to hang Jesus on the cross.

1 Th. 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3 NAILS

One of the most significant things about those three nails is what Christ did for our entire being when He was nailed to that cross. As the above verse in 1 Thessalonians reveals to us we are made up of spirit, soul, and body. When Jesus died on that cross He did far more than just provide a way for us to go to heaven. Jesus paid the price to redeem every part of who we are. Not only did He pay the price for our spirit man (who we really are) to be completely reborn, He also paid the price for us to have our souls renewed, and our bodies made whole. Even though we know we won't experience the fullness of our redemption in our soul and body until He comes for His church, Jesus' death gave us the ability to have a soul that is filled with peace, and a body that is healthy and well.

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

The moment that one turns to Jesus in repentance of their sin and they put their faith in what He did asking Him to become the Lord of their life a new life within begins. What is so awesome about this is the fact that because you are a new creation in Christ you now have the ability to change anything about your life. You can get free from the things that held you in bondage and begin to live a whole new life all because of this new spirit man within.

Rom. 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

We can also as a born again child of God now renew our minds. This helps us to begin this transformation process, no longer living like the world bound by satan and his evil work. Through the renewal of our minds, our soul, we can grow in our relationship with God and walk in the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. This is not possible without receiving the salvation that He offers.

3 John 2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

As our soul is renewed through the Word of God we can walk also in what is a major part of our redemption, health in our bodies. There are many verses that reveal the FACT that God paid the price through Jesus' death for our healing. He not only wants to us to be healed, but to walk in health. The nails that hung our Savior on the cross provided complete redemption for us, spirit, soul, and body!

1 John 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,
Eph. 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

1 SAVIOR

There is but One Savior who paid the price for our complete redemption. There are many different religions in the world, but there is only One Savior who died and then rose from the dead. Christianity is not a religion but a relationship with a LIVING Lord who is the only way to the Father. To walk in the redemptive rights one has as a child of God they must remember that it is through faith in Jesus Christ, not our works, that we are able to experience what Christ died for. We don't work for our salvation. We do work out our salvation learning how to freely receive from the Lord what He died and paid for. If we in anyway can take credit for receiving any part of our redemption then we wouldn't have needed a Savior to die for us. But as we learn how to do spiritual work, learning how to take hold of what Christ paid for, He is the One that receives the glory, for without Him we could have nothing.

Mark 15:25 Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him.

Mark 15:33 Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*"

Mark 15:37 And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.

6 HOURS ON THE CROSS

Jesus hung on the cross for six hours. God does nothing without significance. When you go back to the work of creation when God created the earth and all that is in the earth He worked for six days, but then on the seventh day He rested. We find in the New Testament a reference to God's work of creation that relates to us today as believers in Jesus Christ.

Heb. 4:4 For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh *day* in this way: "*And God rested on the seventh day from all His works*";

Heb. 4:9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

Heb. 4:10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His.

There is a place of rest not only ahead in eternity, but also here on earth. You cannot find this rest by "working" for it. There is no manner of "good works" that one can do to find this rest. It is only found when you cease to work for your salvation and put your trust in Jesus Christ. Within this rest there is a peace that Jesus Himself gives to us that passes all understanding, and it guards our hearts and our minds. Those who don't know Jesus Christ or those who are still trying to "earn" His acceptance will never experience this place of rest. But it is available to all who entrust their life to the Savior. Three nails, one Savior, and six hours on the cross in which God has forever demonstrated His amazing, everlasting, and unchanging love for us all!