

# HC 37 – Nature of Christ’s Suffering in life and death

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: When you hear that a fireman died in a fire trying to rescue an old person you are eager to donate some money to that fireman’s wife and kids. You imagine his suffering-the smoke, the fire - and your heart goes out to his family. You know he would do that for you! You are moved because of his suffering.

But what comes to mind when you hear of “the suffering” of Jesus Christ? What emotions do you feel? Do you treat it as a neat story and go about your business? Do you treat it as a neat story to tell your kids? Christ’s suffering was the worst suffering of all...a suffering that belonged to you. This must make it much more meaningful to you. After all, the old person in a fire was not innocent 无辜的 (All are sinners.) But Jesus was innocent! So today be refreshed or get a fuller grasp 了解 of the suffering of Jesus for you.

Our headings are:

Jesus Christ’s Suffering During his Life

Jesus Christ’s Suffering During his Death

Jesus Christ saves you by his suffering in his life and in his death.

Our goals are: That you won’t treat Christ’s suffering in life and in death as some ancient insignificant fact, but you will love him better for it.

37 Q. WHAT DO YOU UNDERSTAND BY THE WORD “SUFFERED”?

A. That during his whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained in body and soul the anger of God against the sin of the whole human race. This he did in order that, by his suffering as the only atonement sacrifice (赎罪祭), he might set us free, body and soul, from eternal condemnation, and gain for us God’s grace, righteousness, and eternal life.

三十七问：当他说他“受难”时，是什么意思呢？

回答：意即他活在地上的整个时期，特别是最后阶段，在身体和灵魂里，担当了上帝对

全人类罪恶的忿怒（1），以便藉他的受难，作为唯一的赎罪祭（2），可以救赎我们的身体和灵魂脱离永远的沉沦（3），并为我们取得上帝的悦纳、公义和永生（4）

## Jesus Christ’s Suffering During his Life

### 1. Jesus Christ suffered throughout his life in his body.

- He faced hunger and thirst.
- He often had no place to rest his head. His pillow was often a stone.
- He traveled without shelter in 40C weather in the day and very cold temperatures at night.
- He was often tired from his journeys to preach the Gospel and sometimes had to escape those who were trying to kill him.
- His family in which he grew up was poor. Imagine their meager (不足的, 贫乏的) meals. See his bed. As a baby, his parents could only offer pigeons (鸽子) for his redemption (赎罪); they did not even have a lamb!
- He lived in an occupied land and his people collaborated (合作) with Rome and extorted (敲诈) much from the poor.

### 2. Jesus Christ had to suffer throughout his life in his soul.

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised (被藐视) and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

祂被藐视，遭人厌弃，饱受痛苦，历尽忧患。人们对我们不屑一顾，我们也不尊重祂。

a. Sorrow characterized the life of Jesus. Sorrow and grief were his constant companions. He faced abuse from his own people. They tried, and often succeeded, to force him out of their town. Consider the emotion of Jesus when he saw the rejection of Jehovah by Israel through the prophets of old and himself.

Matthew 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

b. Some only wanted the free food he gave or to see his miracles (神迹), but had no interest in what he spoke.

c. Some mocked him as working for the Devil.

d. Jesus’ own family tried to stop him from preaching the Good News.

e. Jesus had to subjected to and dependent on a human family in backward Galilee.

f. Many of his own people tried to kill him, or get him executed by getting him to confess to crimes.

g. He gave the law, and then he had to go through the process of learning it as a man. How humiliating (谦卑的)!

## Jesus Christ’s Suffering at his Death

### 1. Jesus suffered intensely in his body at his death.

a. If the Jews had their way, they would not normally have executed someone by crucifixion (钉十字架). Crucifixion

was Roman. The Jews would have executed by stoning. They would crush the chest with a big stone and then stones were piled on the body. It was short-a few minutes perhaps, and not as gruesome (可怕的). **God the Father would not have Jesus die that way, as it took the worst kind of death to satisfy his anger.** And Jesus had to **publicly die** as an oblation to God.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. **5**

谁知祂是因我们的过犯而被刺透，因我们的罪孽而被压伤。我们因祂所受的刑罚而得到平安，因祂所受的鞭伤而得到医治。

**b. He was impaled (被刺穿) in his side, and his hands and feet were nailed to a cross.**

c. They **slapped (掌掴) his face.**

d. The Romans **scourged (鞭打) him** – made furrows on his back – hit and pull.

e. They crowned him with a **crown of thorns (荆棘冠冕).**

f. He had a **painful thirst**. When he asked for water, they filled his mouth with vinegar.

## **2. Jesus suffered intensely in his soul at his death.**

a. **He was arrested as a common criminal by his own people and endured a mock trial (审判) by the Romans, those over whom he had authority.**

b. **The soldiers mocked him as a pretending king.** (How hard to be silent when you want to put someone in his place.)

c. **The people spat on (吐口水) him.**

d. **His friends abandoned and denied him!** How that must have hurt. The Jewish **religious leaders**, who should have supported a godly man, **abandoned him as well**. His **people** who had a few days earlier chanted (有节奏呼喊) “hosanna” were chanting “crucify him.”

e. **The soldiers stripped him naked.**

f. **He felt his Father’s abandonment – the worst punishment of all.** You see this in how he cried out to his Father in intense **agony (痛苦) of spirit**: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” He had to be **shamed** – humiliated (被羞辱) – as crucifixion was reserved for the worst criminals. Jesus was **accursed (被咒诅) by God.**

g. He was **tortured by being crucified with real criminals.**

**h. The Jewish people abandoned him.** (He came to his own, but his own did not receive him.) And what an aggravation (加增, 加重) of Christ’s suffering - **to die for those who did not care that he was dying for them...** These wicked people called for God’s judgment on their own children for whom Christ was dying...ignoring his teaching...and ignoring their only hope.

Deuteronomy 21: 22 "If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, 23 "his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile (玷污) the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.

## **3. Scholars unanimously (无异议地, 一致同意地) agree that mental or spiritual suffering is worse than the physical suffering.**

### **Jesus Christ Saves you by Suffering in Life and in Death**

**1. Jesus had to die while suffering in his body and soul because you deserved to die with the suffering of your body and soul.**

**2. Jesus had to suffer in life and in death for the whole human race. He loved all kinds of people.** The Jews by themselves were not a special people. It was the love of God for them that set them apart. So when God puts his love on you, Gentiles (外邦人), it sets you apart as well. Consider the promise to save the world:

John 3:16 "For God **so loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish (灭亡) but have everlasting life. 17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

1John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation (挽回祭) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the **whole world.**

Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed (赎买) us from the curse of the law... 14 that the blessing of Abraham might **come upon the Gentiles** in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise...

How sad that the Jews are still **waiting for the Messiah** and a **return to making animal sacrifices** 献祭

They **see themselves as unique because of their nationality**. But the Apostle Paul said that Jews are only children of Abraham if they have faith in Jesus.

**3. Jesus Christ’s suffering was considered an atoning suffering and sacrifice ...for you! His offering of himself was to atone for (为...代赎) your sins...all of them. You owe him everything now!**

Isaiah 55:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. **When You make His soul an offering for sin...**

1John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the **propitiation for our sins.**

What do you think now of those in the United Church of Canada who deny the atonement, or Hindus who believe that your sincerity (诚意) will cause you to please God? What do you think of Greta

Vosper, the United Church minister, who says you can be saved with or without Jesus?

**4. Jesus Christ's suffering in life and death was done as an atoning sacrifice to God to set you free from eternal judgment.** There is no purgatory (炼狱)...or temporary punishments as the Roman Catholics and Muslims say!

Romans 3:24 being justified (被称义) freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance **God had passed over the sins...**  
24 如今却蒙神的恩典，因基督耶稣的救赎，就白白的称义。25 神设立耶稣作挽回祭，是凭着耶稣的血，藉着人的信，要显明神的义；因为他用忍耐的心宽恕人先时所犯的罪，

**5. Jesus Christ's suffering and death put God's grace: Righteousness, holiness, and eternal life to your account.** Jn 3:16.

1Peter 2:23 who, when He was reviled (被辱骂), did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself **bore our sins in His own body on the tree**, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes (鞭伤) **you were healed.**

So much for those who minimize the suffering of Jesus by stating that it is physical healing! It was much more!

1Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might **bring us to God**, being put to death in the flesh **but made alive** by the Spirit,  
Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation (定罪) to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the **righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us...**  
2Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the **righteousness of God** in Him.

**6. I know how you respond when you hear that a fire man suffered and died to save the weak, but how do you respond to the one who personally suffered for you in the worst possible way, physically and spiritually, in his life and in his death, in his childhood and throughout his adult life ...how do you respond to the one who became sin for you and who let himself be abandoned by God for you? Tears! Love! Service!**

**Conclusion:**

**Because Jesus loved the sinner, he subjected himself to obedience to the law** so you could get the credit for his obedience. Because **Jesus loved the sinner he went to the cross** to bear the horror, terror, and violence of his Father's justice. He set his face like flint...to do what was necessary for those the Father had given to him. Jesus Christ was your scapegoat (替罪羊)! Your hands were on his head to show the passing of your sins to him.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. The cross was not just a sad story about an innocent man who was killed.** This type of unfairness happens all the time. The cross must mean more to you. The work on the cross by Jesus is the **work that brings life giving change that lasts for eternity.** The cross was the means by which Jesus Christ atoned for your sins and set you free.

**2. Knowing this, then what?** Look at Titus 2: 11-14 "*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed (不法的行为) and purify for Himself His own special people, **zealous for good works.***"

Finally, if you are not a Christian, it means you don't know this Jesus intimately and you are doomed to hell. But if you ask him to show himself to you...and to show you his work on the cross...and you believe with all your heart in what he has done...eternal life is yours! It is an experience like none other!