

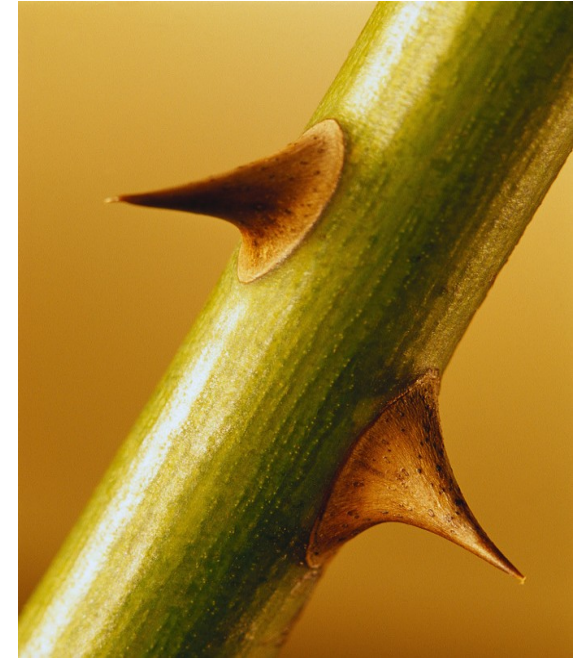
In the cross, Jesus paid the price of sin's penalty for all who seek Him and all who come to Him hungry for a pure heart, yearning for a life cleansed from the sinful stains of this evil world. In the cross alone is power to change us, and power to crack the grip of our selfish lusts and tempers. In His rising again He trampled death underfoot, and opens the only way back to God's friendship and glory, even for us in all our unveiled ugliness.

Jesus Christ was wounded for a purpose. Don't let that purpose pass you by. Don't settle for the weak and passing pleasures of a doomed and decaying world! Why neglect the glory and the richest goodness of God, displayed for us in our own dear Son? Why allow Satan to strip your spirit of any residual integrity and enslave you more deeply in his chains? Why live deprived and cheated of the best of blessings? Why ignore Christ's warning in blood and His urgent pleading for the defiling lusts of the moment?

**Come and hear some more about  
Jesus Christ's costly triumph!**



**Wounded for a purpose**



The great events of Easter, the death and the rising from death of Jesus Christ seem strange and distant to us now nearly 2000 years later. What is so vital about the life and death of One so long ago to us in the white heat of change of the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

Jesus Christ was an amazing teacher, His word gripped the thoughts and fired hearts with a blaze. Guards sent to seize Him, came away so disturbed by what they heard they forgot why

they went. Criminals and tough minded men who lived by stripping wealth out of others found their inner lives laid bare, consciences stung, and their lives changed like driftwood caught up in a whirlwind. Women calloused by abuse and years of Roman vice who heard Him were softened, ennobled and reclothed with a pure dignity they'd long considered irretrievable. The ordinary people loved to hear Him speak, His insights so fresh, so clear and His word like live electricity. Yet Jesus main goal was not to teach...



Jesus' strength of character and His majesty challenged everyone He met. In the violent storms of human anger, He checked and controlled His own spirit perfectly. His enemies ripped their clothes with indignation at His steely calmness. The Governor Pilate was shaken by His peace when he

threatened Christ with torture and death. A war hardened captain muttered His amazement at the cross, 'Surely this was the Son of God'. Even demons cried out in torment at His fiery presence. Yet His gentleness softened to tears those who sought His blessing. Children loved to run to Him. His tears ran down freely at the graveside of His friend. He was happy to be called the friend of sinners. Who has ever lived a life remotely like this Saviour for blamelessness, humility and authority? Yet Jesus did not come merely to set us an example...

The Lord showed stunning miracles of power like no other prophet of God. Who has ever given sight to one born blind? Who has cleansed the foul, living death of leprosy like Him? Who else gave hearing to the deaf, speech to the tongue-tied or power to the lame? Who has ever brought to life one dead in the grave for four days? Yet all these works of power are just picture lessons of His real aim for us.

Why should such a princely person, such a King among men have to die? What had He done wrong? Why did

Jesus cry out from the cross, 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?'

The answer lies in His quiet but passionate prayer when alone in a garden before his death. 'Father, if You will, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but Yours, be done' (Lk:22.42) The Messiah knew there was a work so vital that only His own blood and suffering could finish it. His own holy agony alone could secure it.

The Bible tells us 680 years before Jesus was born, that 'it pleased the Lord to bruise him'(Isa.53.10). It goes on to explain, God 'has put him to grief: when You shall make His soul an offering for sin'.

