

LORD'S DAY 15

Q37. 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 wrath of God against the sin of the whole human race.¹ This he did in order that, by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice,² he might deliver us, body and soul, from eternal condemnation, and gain for us God's grace, righteousness, and eternal life.

1. 1 Pet. 2:24 – “He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”

1 Pet. 3:18 – “For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,”

Isa. 53:12 – “Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out himself to death and was numbered with the transgressors, yet he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.”

2. 1 John 2:2 – “and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

1 John 4:10 – “In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

Rom. 3:25 – “whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed;”

Q38. Why did he suffer “under Pontius Pilate” as judge?

A. So that he, though innocent, might be condemned by an earthly judge,¹ and so free us from the severe judgment of God that was to fall on us.²

1. Luke 23:14 – “and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people, and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him.”

John 19:4 – “Pilate went out again and said to them, ‘Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.’”

2. Ps. 69:5 – “O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.”

Isa. 53

2 Cor. 5:21 – “For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Gal. 3:13 – “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”

Q39. Is it significant that he was “crucified” instead of dying some other way?

A. Yes. By this I am convinced that he shouldered the curse which lay on me,¹ since death by crucifixion was cursed by God.²

1. Gal. 3:10] – “For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.’”

2. Deut. 21:[23] – “his corpse must not remain all night upon the tree; you must bury him that same day, for anyone hung on a tree is under God's curse. You must not defile the land that the Lord your God is giving you for possession.”

Gal. 3:13 – “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’”