

# WHAT IS CRUCIFIXION?

A medical doctor provides a physical description: The cross is placed on the ground and the exhausted man is quickly thrown backwards with his shoulders against the wood. The legionnaire feels for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drives a heavy, square wrought iron nail through the wrist deep into the wood. Quickly he moves to the other side and repeats the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly, but to allow some flex and movement. The cross is then lifted into place. The left foot is pressed backwards against the right foot, and with both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of each, leaving the knees flexed.

The victim is now crucified. As he slowly sags down with more weight on the nails in the wrists, excruciating fiery pain shoots along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain—the nails in the wrists are putting pressure on the median nerves. As he pushed himself upward to avoid this stretching torment, he places the full weight on the nail through his feet.

Again he feels the searing agony of the nail tearing through the nerves between the bones of his feet. As the arms fatigue, cramps sweep through his muscles, knotting them deep relentless, throbbing pain.

With these cramps comes the inability to push himself upward to breathe. Air can be drawn into the lungs but not exhaled. He fights to raise himself in order to get even one small breath. Finally, carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream, and the cramps partially subsides. Spasmodically, he is able to push himself upward to exhale and bring in life-giving oxygen. Hours of limitless pain, cycles of twisting, joint wrenching cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain as tissue is torn from his lacerated back as he moves up and down against rough timber.

Then another agony begins: a deep, crushing pain deep in the chest as the pericardium slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the heart. It is now almost over—the loss of tissue fluids has reached a critical level, the compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood into the tissues—the tortured lungs are making frantic effort to gasp in small gulps of air. He can feel the chill of death creeping through his tissues. Finally, he can allow his body to die.

All this the Bible records with the simple words, “and they crucified Him” (Mark 15:24). What wondrous love is this? Many people do not know that pain and suffering our Lord, Jesus Christ went through for us. Because of the brutality, crucifixion was given a sentence to only its worst offenders of the law.

Thieves, murderers, and rapists would be the types of creeps who got crucified. Yet, Jesus is being crucified between two hardened criminals. What did Jesus do? Did He murder anyone? Did He steal anything? The answer as we all know is **no!!** Jesus did nothing to deserve this type of death, yet He went willing to die, in between two thieves, so that we might be saved. And there, in between the sinners, was our slain Savior for our sins. It is amazing to me that people think that the church is not important, or that they can attend once or twice a year, or perhaps once a week and still call themselves “Christian.” People try and justify in their minds what they give to Christ. “I sacrifice a great deal for Christ,” they say to themselves. They forsake the assembly, but they show up for work every time they are scheduled to work. Jesus had something to say about people being lukewarm, neither cold nor hot: “I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Rev. 3:15-16). **Christ gave His life for you and for me. When will you give your life, in obedience to God’s Word, to Christ?** When will you begin to live for Christ?

Author Unknown



**BELVEDERE BEACON**  
"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)  
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535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574  
(Greater Augusta, GA area)  
SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

<b>SUNDAY:</b>		<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	
Bible Classes for all ages	10:00 am.	Bible Classes for all ages	7:00 p.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 am.		
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.		

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## YOUR CHILDREN

**It Is Hard to Convince Your Children** – That the work of the church is really important when you are not taking an active part In the work of the church.

**It Is Hard to Convince Your Children** – That faithfulness to the church is the most important loyalty in life when you permit them to forsake services to engage in other activities.

**It Is Hard to Convince Your Children** – That the church is the body of Christ when you are indifferent to the welfare of the members of that body.

**It Is Hard to Convince Your Children** – That they are to respect the church when you constantly complain and criticize the efforts of those who care enough to be doing something.

**It Is Hard to Convince Your Children** – That the church is the world’s most important institution when you give so little to finance the church’ s work.

**It Is Hard to Convince Your Children** – That they can believe God’s Word if you can’t believe Him enough to place the kingdom of God first in your life,

**It is Hard to Convince Your Children** – That it is important to love your enemies when you hold grudges and have wrong attitudes toward those who do you wrong.

**It Is Hard to Convince Your Children** – That we must obey the laws of the land when we lie on our tax form and disregard speed limits.

**It Is Hard to Convince Your Children** – That it is important to teach others the gospel when we have never attempted to talk with our neighbors or friends about the truth.

**It Is Hard to Convince Your Children** – That we must stand against false doctrine and immorality when we remain silent when error is being propagated or practiced. *Copied*

## Hope Deferred and Heartsick

*“Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life”*  
(Proverbs 13:12).

Though they live on the earth, Christians have their hope elsewhere. Children of God oftentimes delight to sing the sweet words: “This world is not my home, I’m just a-passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue; the angels beckon me from heaven’s open door, And I can’t feel at home in this world anymore.” The Christian is not at home while dwelling upon earth, because his heart is where his treasures are being laid up (Matt. 6:20-21). But it is the fact that his hope lies somewhere else, deferred until after death unless the Lord comes first, that sometimes makes him homesick—and heartsick.

Hope is essential to the Christian: Inspiration states, “*We are saved by hope*” (Rom. 8:24—KJV) or “*In hope were we saved*” (ASV). This does not mean that anyone is saved by hope alone—the hope a believer has in the promises of God causes him to strive toward the distant, yet nearer approaching, heavenly goal. Skeptics take a very cynical view of hope. Author Henry Miller said, “Hope is a bad thing. It means that you are not what you want to be. It means that part of you is dead, if not all of you. It means that you entertain illusions.” Such a view is based on a misunderstanding of what hope is. Hope is correctly defined as “desire plus expectation”; it is not simply “wishful thinking.” The Oxford American College Dictionary defines hope as “a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen...grounds for believing that something good may happen.” The one who has hope has grounds, or a basis, for expecting that he will receive good things. When Miller said that hope “means you entertain illusions,” he was correctly expressing a view on wishful thinking, not hope. Journalist and critic, H. L. Mencken said, “Hope is a pathological belief in the occurrence of the impossible,” ignoring the fact that if there is a true basis to believe something, it cannot be impossible.

The Christian has hope—assurance based on fact—because of the resurrection of Christ. There is evidence recorded by credible witnesses (apostles) who gained nothing earthly by providing accounts of His resurrection except persecution, torture, and death. The evidence given is substantial and irrefutable; therefore, the Christian legitimately expects that there will be a resurrection, and desires and expects that he will take part in it. In the meanwhile, he is upon earth, wistfully anticipating the time when he will be with his Lord in Heaven.

The only hope that exists is hope deferred; because “*hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?*” (Rom. 8:24). Yet, why would one want to depart this world without hope (Jer. 18:12; Eph. 2:12; 1 Thess. 4:13)? “*Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord*” (Psa. 31:24). The Christian can enjoy the abundant life especially given him on earth; yet how much more will his joy be when that desired end comes, and it is truly a tree of eternal life? Brother Terry Hightower speaks of a missionary to Burma who wrote, “I am not tired of my work, neither am I tired of this world; yet when Christ calls me home I shall go with the gladness of a schoolboy bounding away from school.”

*Lee Moses*  
*Mammoth Springs, AR*  
*Ken Chumbley*

## NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron’s sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

Kathy Treadway is in Edisto for several weeks.

Lanny Niver was unable to be out. He has health issues again, please keep him in prayer.

Steven Wilson was sick Sunday and unable to be out but was able to be out Wednesday.

Continue to keep Jean Pebbles’ daughter, Betty, as she continues to recuperate from surgery.

The next pot luck will be after the morning worship on July 25, 2010. Plan to stay and eat and enjoy a time of fellowship together.

## SPECIAL NOTE:

Ken Chumbley is working on an update for the church directory. Those who were in the previous one, please check the information and let him know of any changes. If you have an e-mail address, please let him know that if it is not already listed. For newer members, please let him have a note with your name, address, telephone number(s), birthday, and anniversary (if applicable). Thanks.

## THOSE ROTTEN KIDS!

“Our youths love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority, they show disrespect for their elders, and love to chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when their elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble **up** food, and tyrannize teachers.”

Think this describes the kids in 2010? Actually, it was spoken by Socrates in 400 B.C.

*Selected*