

SBC – May 7, 2023

Matt. 27:1-10 (NKJV)
“The Death of Judas”

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

- Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)
- Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.
- Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)
- Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)
- Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)
- Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.
- Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.
- Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.
- Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.
- Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.
- Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.
- Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.**
- Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

In our study of Matthew we are in the immediate shadow of the cross. Christ is on trial falsely accused with the design of having Jesus killed in the hearts of the religious leaders. And two other players that loom large in the narrative are Peter and Judas.

Peter being loyal with a sincere faith, but weak, denied the Lord three times but then was broken in repentance and restored. Judas had no faith and in a cold calculated manner betrayed the Lord for 30 pieces of silver which was the price of a slave in the OT (cf. Ex. 21:32).

Matthew presents Peter’s denials and what became of Judas the betrayer back to back so as to present a contrast. Peter’s denials were based in

human weakness while the betrayal of Judas was based in premeditated depravity given over to Satan.

Matthew 27:1–10 (NKJV)

1 When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death.

This is the third of 3 religious trials. The first two were illegal being carried on in the middle of the night. The decision had already been made that Jesus was to be put forth to Rome for capital punishment. Now they just needed to ratify it formally and officially in the light of day which was required by their law.

Even so, they still were not consistent with their own laws which required at least a one-day waiting period before executing the death penalty so as to allow feelings of mercy to rise and be considered. There was none of that here.

Slide # 2

Jesus was on trial six times

Three Jewish Trials:

- 1st Trial — Annas; John 18:12-14
- 2nd Trial — Caiaphas; Luke 22:54-65
- **3rd Trial** — Sanhedrin; Luke 22:66 -71

Three Gentile Trials:

- 4th Trial — Pilate for the first time; Luke 23:1-6
- 5th Trial — Herod Antipas; Luke 23:8-12
- 6th Trial — Pilate for the second time; Luke 23:13-25

“All the chief priests and elders of the people” indicates this was a meeting of the Sanhedrin – the supreme court in Israel. And note they were **“plotting against Jesus to put Him to death.”** They had already agreed amongst themselves that He should die on the charge of blasphemy for claiming to “the Christ, the Son of God” (Mt. 26:63).

However, for Rome to agree to the death penalty they needed some charge that would make Jesus an enemy of the state. They needed something that smacked of treason which Rome would not stand for (cf. Acts 17:5-9). They camped on the fact that in professing to be the Messiah He was claiming to be a KING! This was always the issue in the background ever since Jesus was born as seen in the murderous reaction of Herod in Matthew 2.

We see Pilate making this the issue as he hung “THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS” over the cross of Christ (Mt. 27:37). This was the

official charge worthy of death as far as Rome was concerned and Pilate with this signage sought to rub it in the faces of the Jews.

As seen in Luke 23:2 they ended up with three formal charges they presented to Rome which they argued called for the death penalty.

Slide # 3

Luke 23:2 (NKJV)

2 And they began to accuse Him, saying, **[1]**“We found this fellow perverting the nation, **[2]** and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, **[3]** saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.”

1. Rebel Rouser
2. Forbidding to pay taxes
3. Claiming to be a King

Those were serious charges as far as Rome was concerned because they were a threat to Caesar and any threat to Caesar was to be immediately destroyed.

But note that Pilate knew their real motivation in seeking the death penalty.

Slide # 4

Matthew 27:18 (NKJV)

18 For **he knew** that they had handed Him over because of envy.

Pilate knew their game. He knew what they were up to. But apparently, he felt forced to play along because of the politics involved as we will see.

2 And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Pilate was the appointed governor from AD 26 to 36. He normally lived in Caesarea on the coast but during the Jewish feasts, he often came to Jerusalem to ensure the peace was kept and that the Jews did not get out of hand. He was responsible to Rome to keep the peace and to keep the Jews in check.

Slide # 5



“Pontius” was the family name. Pilate HATED the Jews. He started his rule by bringing flags with the emperor’s portrait into Jerusalem. That caused an uproar. Then he took money from the treasury of the temple to build an aqueduct system that would supply Jerusalem with water. When the Jews protested, he had his soldiers club and bludgeon many of them to death. Thus the Jews hated Pilate and he hated them. The feeling was mutual!

Earlier the Jews had sent a formal complaint concerning another matter about Pilate to Tiberius the current Caesar and Pilate had been severely rebuked by the Emperor. So Pilate felt pressure to appease the Jewish leaders lest they once again get him in trouble with the Emperor.

Pilate hated the Jews but felt political pressure to get along. The Jews did not have the authority to apply the death penalty so they came to Pilate demanding he carry it out. And in doing so they pitted allegiance to Caesar against the claims of Christ.

Slide # 6

John 18:31 (NKJV)

31 Then Pilate said to them, “You take Him and judge Him according to your law.” Therefore the Jews said to him, **“It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,”**

John 19:12 (NKJV)

12 From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, **“If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar’s friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.”**

These Jewish religious leaders were savvy and they had Pilate painted into a corner and they were not going to let him get out unless he did what they wanted. So in effect, Pilate went along kicking and screaming but giving them what they wanted lest he get into further trouble with Caesar.

3 Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

4 saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” And they said, “What is that to us? You see to it!”

This response of Judas is kind of amazing! What did he think was going to happen? Judas was a lover of money.

He was in charge of the money box of the disciples and regularly stole from it as seen in John 12:6. For this reason he threw a fit when Mary anointed Jesus with a very expensive oil complaining it could have been sold for a good profit and given to the poor – not that he cared for the poor – but was thinking that he could have helped himself to it (cf. Jn. 12:5-6).

Slide # 7

1 Timothy 6:10 (NKJV)

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Jesus said that no one can serve two masters. “You cannot serve God and money.” (Mt. 6:24). Judas served money as his god.

The name Judas is synonymous with “Betrayer”. Betrayal is such an ugly thing. This is consistently how Judas is portrayed and described. He was the “betraye” – and he did it all for a few silver coins.

Judas watched the proceedings – evidently from a distance as did Peter. But when he saw that they had condemned Jesus to die he felt remorse. It is surmised that perhaps Judas thought Jesus would once again escape from their clutches as He had done so often before.

Slide # 8

Luke 4:28–30 (NKJV)

28 So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

29 and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.

30 Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way.

John 8:58–59 (NKJV)

58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, **going through the midst of them, and so passed by.**

Recall that even when they came to arrest Jesus when He introduced Himself as “I AM” they all went flying backward as seen in John 18:6. Perhaps Judas was thinking that once again Jesus would somehow evade His enemies, he would have the cash given to him by the priests, and life would just go on. But this development of Jesus being condemned to death was not what he expected and he was suddenly remorseful.

Being remorseful he brought back the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders saying, “***I have sinned by betraying innocent blood***”. Indeed he had! Emotionally he was remorseful. Intellectually, he admitted his sin. But this was not repentance.

A different word is used here (Gk. metaomeloeomai) meaning “to regret” than is normally used for true repentance (Gk. metanoia). Repentance literally means to have “a change of mind” that results in a change of behavior. It involves a fundamental change in the core of a person’s thinking towards God. Repentance says, “I am wrong – God is right” and aligns with God’s truth.

Recall that Pharaoh in the midst of experiencing the plagues of judgment repeatedly said “I have sinned” (Ex. 9:27; 10:16). Yet, it is clear that this was not true repentance. When people are hurting emotionally, they might say all kinds of things, but that does not necessarily mean it signifies a true change of heart toward God.

The Bible differentiates between godly sorrow in keeping with true repentance from that of worldly sorrow that produces death. Godly sorrow is God-oriented – worldly sorrow is self-oriented. It feels bad for self. Paul called on all people to respond with “repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21).

This is an important point regarding the nature of a true saving faith. A mere emotional response does not equal saving faith. The Bible says, “with the heart we believe unto righteousness” (Rom. 10:9-10).

I have been in hospital rooms in times of crisis when the most worldly and ungodly people pray like they are the most sincere believers you have ever

seen and yet when the crisis is over they go right on with living ungodly lives.

Comedian Red Skelton in 1951 took a party of friends with him in a plane to Europe where he was to perform in London. As they were flying over the Swiss Alps, 3 of the plane's engines failed. The situation looked grave. People began to PRAY! Skelton went into one of his best comic routines to try and distract them. The plane was losing power and coming closer and closer to the mountain. At the last moment, the pilot spotted a clearing and was able to land the plane. Skelton broke the relieved silence by saying: "***Ladies and Gentlemen, you may now return to the evil habits you gave up 20 minutes ago.***"

God knows the hearts of all people – and even though people in their folly seem to think they can play games – acting like they can even fool God - in the end they are exposed as true FOOLS!

One cannot fool God – only FOOLS try!

The Bible clearly indicates that Judas was not saved. Even the demons believe intellectually and they tremble emotionally, but their true heart allegiance is to Satan and they are not saved (Ja. 2:19). A guilty conscience is not the same as true repentance.

Slide 9

John 6:70–71 (NKJV)

70 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, **and one of you is a devil?**"

71 He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.

Matthew 26:24 (NKJV)

24 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but **woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.**"

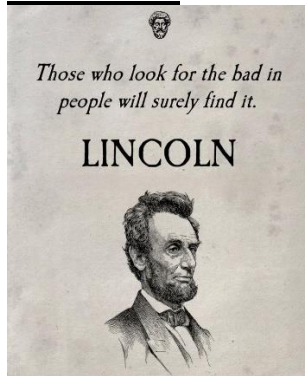
John 17:12 (NKJV)

12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and **none of them is lost except the son of perdition,** that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

What a testimony coming even from this depraved betrayer. He totally admitted the innocence of Christ. If there was anything at all on Christ He surely would have rationalized his behavior.

But he had nothing.

Slide # 10



But here is the deal – they couldn't find it in Jesus because it wasn't there.

And in saying he had betrayed innocent blood he was in effect acknowledging that a curse was upon him.

Slide # 11

Deuteronomy 27:25 (NKJV)

25 'Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person.'
 "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

This verse had Judas' name written all over it.

Perhaps Judas was hoping against hope that with his confession these esteemed religious leaders would even yet pull back the reins on their evil agenda and not push forward for the death penalty. But alas they were so hard and calloused that they did not care one bit about the conscience of Judas or the fact that Jesus was an innocent man.

The chief priests and elders said to Judas, "What is that to us? You see to it!" In effect, they said, "That is your problem, not ours". They were totally indifferent. It should have mattered to them. If Judas betrayed innocent blood they have condemned innocent blood! And as noted the OT law pronounced a curse on anyone doing so.

5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Judas didn't just throw the pieces of silver in the outer temple precincts (the *hieron*), rather he threw them into the inner sanctuary (*naos*) where only the priests were allowed to go. You see the word used here for "temple" is the Greek word "naos" which refers to the inner temple sanctuary.

Judas intentionally threw the money where only the priests could retrieve it as if to spite them and make them feel the pangs of guilt that so oppressed him. In effect, he was making them deal with it too. They too would have to deal with this blood money as they too were implicated in the matter. They too would be forced to have to handle this blood money. It was on their hands too!

And then Judas went out and hanged himself.

Judas turned on his heel, rushed blindly away, and hurled himself headlong into a lost eternity. – **John Phillips**

Clearly, this was a suicide! If indeed Judas felt like he was cursed perhaps he thought that his appropriate self-punishment was death by hanging.

Slide # 12

Deuteronomy 21:22–23 (NKJV)

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 the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; **for he who is hanged is accursed of God.**

Those who betray innocent blood are cursed as are those who are hung. Judas was indeed a doubly cursed man guilty of the greatest crime in human history.

In the OT Ahithophel was a type of Judas. He was a trusted advisor to king David but then betrayed him and then proceeded to hang himself (cf. 2 Sam. 17:23).

Death does not relieve guilt; it makes it permanent and intensified beyond comprehension. As Jesus repeatedly declared, hell is a place

of eternal torment, of “weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30). – John MacArthur

The Bible mentions six specific people who committed suicide: Abimelech ([Judges 9:54](#)), Saul ([1 Samuel 31:4](#)), Saul’s armor-bearer ([1 Samuel 31:4–6](#)), Ahithophel ([2 Samuel 17:23](#)), Zimri ([1 Kings 16:18](#)), and Judas ([Matthew 27:5](#)). Five of these men were noted for their wickedness (the exception is Saul’s armor-bearer—nothing is said of his character). Some consider Samson’s death an instance of suicide, because he knew his actions would lead to his death ([Judges 16:26–31](#)), but Samson’s goal was to kill Philistines, not himself.

– **Gotquestions.org**

Suicide is always a terrible thing. It is estimated that about 800,000 people commit suicide every year. Suicide is self-murder. Every human being is made in the image of God and belongs to God. No one has the right to murder anyone, even themselves. The Bible says God is the giver of life – He both gives and takes away (Job 1:21). Psalm 31:15 says of God, “My times are in your hands”.

Suicide is self-murder and is rebellion against God’s sovereign right over life and death. It is an act of sin and unbelief, a clear violation of the sixth commandment, “You shall not murder” (Ex. 20:13).

– **John MacArthur**

So the question is: Can a Christian commit suicide? The answer is “yes”. Christians can and do still sin and sometimes grievously. Even Christians can get into a really dark place where the devil has his way with them. Peter in addressing Christians says this:

Slide # 13

1 Peter 4:15 (NKJV)

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters.

Peter says don’t do this but in saying so indicates that it is possible for a Christian to potentially be guilty of it. Just as sure as a Christian could be guilty of being a thief, an evildoer, or a busybody, they could just as well potentially be a “murderer” and that includes the sin of self-murder. But we are commanded to NOT do this.

Matthew says Judas “hanged himself” but Acts 1 adds more detail.

Slide # 14**Acts 1:18–19 (NKJV)**

18 (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; **and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out.**

19 And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

When you put it all together apparently Judas hung himself but then perhaps the weak limb of the tree broke and falling headlong his inners burst open.

Some suggest that perhaps because of the Passover feast his body was not found for some time and in that climate, it quickly decomposed resulting in it becoming bloated and having his intestines gush out. Whatever the specifics - it was a ghastly scene.

6 But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.”

This represents the height of religious hypocrisy. By admitting this was blood money they in effect were admitting their own guilt.

They had no problem taking the money out of the Temple treasury to pay Judas the betrayal money, but now they have scruples about putting it back in. In doing so they testified of their own guilt and that this truly was dirty business.

The leaders once again “strained out a gnat” in their caution to use Judas’s blood money correctly, but “swallowed a camel” by orchestrating Jesus’ death. – ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

Their hearts were stained with sin but outwardly they were very concerned about being ceremonially clean. The great sin of the religious leaders as consistently brought out by Jesus was their HYPOCRISY! For them it was all about OUTWARD formalities, but God is first and foremost concerned about the heart.

Evidently, their concern was an application of Deut. 23:18...

Slide # 15**Deuteronomy 23:18 (NKJV)**

18 You shall not bring the wages of a harlot or the price of a dog to the house of the LORD your God for any vowed offering, for both of these are an abomination to the LORD your God.

Morally contaminated offerings were not to be presented to the Lord as that was an offensive abomination. In refusing to put this “blood money” into the temple treasury they were actually admitting that behind it was sinful activity that vitally involved them.

Legalism is so inconsistent – so hypocritical. On the one hand it so strict with all things “lawish” (“don’t defile the temple”) and yet on the other hand completely overlooks the most obvious of gross inconsistency which paid blood money to have an innocent man killed.

Self-deception – is a terrible thing... especially religious deception.

Slide # 16

**Better listen to this
one...**



Eve found the serpent more trustworthy than God, not because of its credentials, but because the serpent said what Eve wanted to hear.

7 And they consulted together and bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in.

Instead of putting it back into the Temple treasury they decided to use it for a noble charitable cause. (Wasn’t that thoughtful – a nice humanitarian gesture. I am sure they thought so.)

They decided to use this “blood money” (Judas’s money) to buy a potter’s field which could be used to bury strangers in. A potter’s field was where they dug up clay to make pots, etc.

Originally this plot of ground was known as the potter’s field, a place where potters dug for clay. Consequently, it was full of holes, which would have made it easy to bury people who had no family tombs.

– ***The Nelson Study Bible***

8 Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

This field became known as “***The Field of Blood***” as also noted in Acts 1:19. Matthew in writing about 25 years later notes that this field was commonly known as “the Field of Blood” indicating that it was generally known that it had been purchased with blood money. In the end these religious leaders fooled no one.

And by that name [field of blood], the entire city testified to Jesus’ innocence, acknowledging that He had been falsely accused, falsely condemned, and falsely executed. – ***John MacArthur***

9 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, 10 and gave them for the potter’s field, as the LORD directed me.”

This is a paraphrased quote taken from Zechariah 11:12-13 which prophetically depicted this very scene related to Judas betraying Christ for 30 pieces of silver and then throwing it into the house of the LORD which was then used to buy a potter’s field.

Slide # 17

Zechariah 11:12–13 (NKJV)

12 Then I said to them, “If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain.” So they weighed out for my wages **thirty pieces of silver**.

13 And the LORD said to me, “**Throw it to the potter**”—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the **house of the LORD for the potter**.

Note the sarcasm when he says, “***that princely price they set on me.***” Sarcastically he is saying they didn’t value my ministry at all. Truly, He was despised and rejected of men (cf. Isa. 53).

Amazingly this is shown to be a prophecy about the betrayal of the Lord Jesus Christ which was given 500 years before. Note the precision as it names the exact amount for which He was betrayed.

There are really three precise prophecies in view here regarding Christ. 1) The exact amount of 30 pieces of silver is what was given for Christ. 2) This money was then thrown into the temple. And 3) it went to a potter to purchase his field.

But note that Matthew says this was a fulfillment of that which was spoken by Jeremiah and not by Zechariah. Did Matthew make a mistake?

Absolutely not!

There are several possible explanations.

One explanation is that Matthew blends several OT themes related to both Zechariah and Jeremiah but lists them as one and since Jeremiah is the more prominent prophet he names him. This is not uncommon.

For example, in Mark 1:2-3 we have a quote from the Prophets which is actually a combination quote from both Malachi and Isaiah.

Slide # 18

Mark 1:2–3 (NKJV)

2 As it is written in the Prophets: “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.” [**Malachi 3:1**]

3 “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’ ” [**Isaiah 40:3**]

Perhaps there is something of this nature involved here in Matthew 27:9-10 which combines two prophecies thematically under one umbrella.

Others suggest that the key is found in the word “spoken” by Jeremiah suggesting that perhaps Jeremiah spoke it orally and then later Zechariah wrote it down.

However, it seems the best view is that the Jewish division of the OT involved three parts called the **Law, the Writings, and the Prophets**.

Understand they did not yet have chapter and verse divisions like we have. That happened in the 1500s.

In the threefold division of the Jews the Law referred to the first 5 books which we commonly call **the Law** of Moses; **the Writings** (Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes,

Esther, Daniel, Ezra/Nehemiah, Chronicles); and **the Prophets** (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the 12 minor prophets).

Often the Jews would cite the first book in a particular section indicating what they were quoting came from somewhere in that division. For example note Luke 24:44.

Slide # 19

Luke 24:44 (NKJV)

44 Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the **Law of Moses** and **the Prophets** and **the Psalms** concerning Me.”

Here Jesus named the Psalms as representing the entire section commonly known as the Writings. Psalms was the first book in that scroll so it represents the whole section.

Likewise, Jeremiah was the first book listed in the section that included Zechariah. So although Jeremiah is named, in view is actually the quote from Zechariah which is part of that whole greater division of Scripture.

Slide # 20

As evidenced by the Talmud, the ancient order of the prophetic books puts Jeremiah first, and thus Matthew quotes from the prophets collectively as from Jeremiah. – ***The Believer’s Study Bible***

In short, “***spoken by Jeremiah the prophet***” was a way of saying, “recorded in the prophetic books” of which Jeremiah in shorthand form stood for that whole section collectively which included Zechariah.

Once again, Matthew zeros in on the fact that Jesus entire life, ministry, and details surrounding His death were all in perfect fulfillment of prophecy in the OT. Jesus whole life was a life of fulfilled prophecy making it abundantly clear that He is the true Messiah. So strong is this reality that Revelation 19:10 says “the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”.

Prophecy always has Jesus as its theme. It all points to Jesus in one form or another. Jesus is the center and theme of all prophecy. Jesus is the grand subject of the entire book.

As we think about Judas and his tragic demise some have suggested that perhaps in taking his own life he was hoping to somehow make atonement for his great sin which he admitted to. But as we note from Scripture there is only ONE death that can bring atonement – the death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Slide # 21

Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV)

3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, **when He had by Himself purged our sins**, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV)

14 For **by one offering He has perfected forever** those who are being sanctified.

Jesus paid it all – all to Him we owe. This is the true gospel of God's grace.

And finally as we consider the contrast between Judas and Peter – we note all is well that ends well. In the end, the ultimate issue is how we end – and where we end up. Peter stumbled badly, but as a man of true faith he was raised back up and he ended well. But in contrast, Judas had no true faith and as hardened in unbelief, when he fell it was irreversible!

Slide # 22

Proverbs 24:16 (NKJV)

16 For a **righteous man may fall seven times And rise again**, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.

Proverbs 29:1 (NKJV)

1 He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will **suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.**

People tend to die as they lived. People who play games with God end up in a bad place.

Voltaire was a famous infidel. In 1778 he bragged, "*It took twelve men to start Christianity. One will destroy it.*" Well, he has long been gone and

Christianity is still here. He called Christ, "*the cursed wretch*" but when he came to die he cried out, "*I am abandoned by God and man: I shall go to hell.*"

In contrast, the famous evangelist **Dwight L. Moody** as he was dying said, "*Earth recedes, Heaven opens before me. If this is death, it is sweet! There is no valley here. God is calling me, and I must go!*"

All is well that ends well, but how you end is all determined by what you do with Jesus in the here and now. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. (Acts 16:30-31) God help us to end well!