

Christ in the Middle of Mankind John 19:16-18

The display of Christ on the cross hanging between two criminals is the depiction of the incarnation and all of mankind.

The day that Jesus laid aside His garments of glory and clothed Himself in a human body is the day that perfection slipped into and among sin and misery.

The entirety of Scripture from Genesis to the Revelation is a constant reminder of our need of a perfect Savior to rescue us from our sin.

Galatians 4:3-5 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Every person in the history of the world falls into the category of the one criminal or the other.

The Bible teaches us that all people are aware of this need for a Savior and that because of this knowledge, all men are without excuse.

Romans 1:19-20 (TLB) For the truth about God is known to them instinctively; God has put this knowledge in their hearts. Since earliest times men have seen the earth and sky and all God made, and have known of his existence and great eternal power. So, they will have no excuse when they stand before God at Judgment Day.

1. Christ the perfect man in the middle of sinful men. Vs.18
 - A. Notice the position of Christ in the middle.
 - B. He is accessible to both criminals.
 - C. Both criminals spoke to Jesus.

2. The cursing criminal on one side. Luke 23:39
 - A. The one criminal knew about Jesus but rejected Him as real.
 - B. "If thou be the Christ"
 - C. Here we notice that close proximity to and knowledge of Jesus did not result in repentance.

3. The repentant criminal on the other side. Luke 23:40-42
 - A. This criminal saw Jesus as his only hope.
 - B. He noted his guiltiness and helplessness.
 - C. He was moved to ask for Jesus help.