

## What Jesus the Christ has done for us 2

**‘To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,  
and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father  
- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.’**

[Revelation 1:5b) - 6]

### Do we realise the wonder of what Jesus **suffered for us?**

John’s ascription of praise [see above] to God in Jesus the Christ speaks of the great work that God in Jesus the Christ accomplished for us, while he was on earth in fully human form.

We know that he:

- left the glory of heaven to be born in fully human form;
- came to save his people from their sins;
- taught and called people to God through himself;
- showed through many signs that he is God Incarnate;
- was crucified, dead, buried, raised back to life and ascended back to glory.

BUT is this just head knowledge. Has it dropped 18 inches into our hearts?

Can we, dare we, place ourselves in the shoes of Peter, James and John?

What do we see? What do we discover?

We see not just a great teacher, a great Rabbi.

We see Jesus deliberately and steadfastly choose to head to Jerusalem, where he has told us the religious authorities will put him to death. [cf. Luke 9:51].

We listen during the Passover meal in the upper room as he again speaks about his impending death.

We head for Gethsemane, see him in travail in prayer, even sweating drops of blood.

We see another disciple betray him : he is arrested, manhandled, spat upon, and punched.

We are aware of the farce of a trial that finally condemns him to death.

Then we deny him! Betray him! Make our excuses and leave!

In front of Pilate we see him falsely accused, sent to Herod, returned from Herod.

We hear him being sentenced to be flogged.

Later we see that the Roman soldiers did a ‘right good job’ on him!

We see the blood drip from his head where the crown of thorns sits.

We hear the cries of “Crucify him!” eventually winning over Pilate.

He is condemned in place of a murderer and insurrectionist!

We see him struggle with the crossbeam for his cross on the way to Calvary.

We can only watch, and hear, as the nails are hammered into him, and the cross is lifted into place.

We see the sheer agony on his face.

We are stunned as darkness falls at midday!

Later we hear him say, “**It is finished.**” [cf. John 19:30]

We feel an earthquake shake the ground and learn that the great curtain in the temple has been torn from top to bottom.

We ask ourselves, “What was all that about?”

The teaching; the drawing others to God; the brutal treatment; the shame of his death; the opening up of the Holy of Holies!

Then, by the grace of God, the penny drops:  
he bore all that because **he loves us!**

'He left His Father's throne above -  
so free, so infinite His grace -  
emptied Himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
for, O my God, it found it me!'

[Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788)]

Yours in Christ,  
Douglas