

Viewing His Suffering

We worship a Savior who bore our punishment in full view of the world. Pilate, after scourging him¹, presented Him to the mob to show the results of the gruesome punishment in hopes that this would satisfy them. But it didn't, and Christ was crucified in one of the most visible forms of punishment and execution that could be managed. The Romans wanted the victim to suffer greatly, but also to make them a public example, so that the punishment could be a lesson to the people.

But God also wanted us all to see. He did not just tell us a sacrifice was made for us somewhere, as He could have. It was not done in a corner², and there were many witnesses.

When Christ was resurrected, he still had the wounds on His body. He was healed and yet still broken³. That is for us to view as well, as He showed himself to the apostles (especially Thomas⁴). The "broken" image should remind us of the continuing power of His loving sacrifice.

Christ is now at the right hand of God, and the body (broken or not) is no longer necessary to Him. But because of it we will be transformed as well⁵. We are also broken but will one day be healed.

For now, we view His suffering sacrifice and worship Him as our Savior, recognizing the communion that He offers to us.

1. John 19:1
2. Acts 26:26
3. from Anne Lamont
4. John 20:27
5. Philippians 3:21