

“Nailed It!”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. John 20:24-29

1. While nails are mentioned at least nine times in the Bible, John 20:25 is the only reference to them in regard to Christ
2. Raised by a carpenter, Jesus understood the use of nails, to fasten things together. They were very likely handmade and crude
3. Nails were used to fasten Jesus to the cross, but they also nailed down other matters of the faith
4. I will not attempt a description of the agony they must have imposed on His flesh and person, lest a focus on the physical divert our gaze from the spiritual

B. Those nails fastened other things in the faith:

1. They nailed down the faithfulness of God for our faith
2. They nailed shut the door of the Old Law
3. They nailed together Christ and His Church
4. They nailed together the blood Jesus and the waters of baptism
5. They nailed shut all other ways
6. They nailed down the love of God for our comfort

I. THEY NAILED DOWN THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

- A. The scriptures address the absolute power and trustworthiness of God; but, the cross nailed the principle solidly in our understanding
- B. 2Cor. 1:20; Rom. 4:21; Eph. 3:20; Phil. 3:21; Heb. 11:11, 6:17-18; Titus 1:2
- C. The nails that fastened Jesus to the cross nailed the faithfulness of God forever in the sight of all men. God's faithfulness has never been in question; it is our conviction in His faithfulness that varies
- D. Since it is true that God will carry out all of His promises, it must be understood that He will also keep the promises to punish those who reject the Gospel of His Son - John 3:16-18; Heb. 10:29

II. THEY NAILED SHUT THE DOOR OF THE OLD LAW

- A. We are no longer under the Old Law - Col. 2:14; Heb. 9:15
 1. It was always designed to be a temporary teacher - Gal. 3:19-25
 2. To return to that system is to fall from grace - Gal. 5:4

III. THEY NAILED TOGETHER CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

- A. Many have the wrong understanding of the church
 1. “The church is not essential to salvation”
 2. “Join the church of your choice”
- B. The nails were driven in His flesh to purchase the church
 1. Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25
- C. Others will forsake the church, resent the church, ignore the church, and divide the church

1. The church and Christ cannot be separated; they are inextricably bound to one another so as to become the model after which marriage is to be patterned - Eph. 5:31-32

IV. THEY NAILED TOGETHER THE BLOOD OF JESUS AND THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

- A. It is only through the blood of Christ that we have redemption in this world
 1. Rev. 7:13-14; 1Peter 1:18-19; 1John 1:7
- B. Three facts that show beyond question the relationship between the waters of baptism and the blood of Jesus:
 1. We are washed from our sins in His blood - Rev. 1:5. We are washed from our sins in baptism - Acts 22:16.
 2. It is through the blood that we have remission of sins - Matt. 26:28. It is through baptism that we have remission of sins - Acts 2:38.
 3. It was in Christ's death that His blood was shed - John 19:34. We are baptized into His death - Rom. 6:3-4.
- C. The nails of cross have joined baptism in water and the blood of Christ. Man cannot draw out these nails.
 1. Baptism without the blood of Jesus is an empty ritual
 2. The blood of Jesus without baptism in water cannot cleanse away sin
 - a. Mark 16:16; 1Peter 3:21

V. THEY NAILED SHUT ALL OTHER WAYS

- A. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 10:1; Eph. 4:4-6

VI. THEY NAILED DOWN THE LOVE OF GOD

- A. Rom. 5:8-9
- B. Many things appear to hide the love of God from us: 1) sin, 2) sickness, 3) pain, 4) unkindness, and 5) grief, all may seem to hide the love of God from us, but it really cannot pull the nails that hold up the banner of God's love for all to see
 1. Consider Jesus' cries for help - Matt. 26:39, 27:46
 2. Yet, God left Him there, making the choice to love us greater than His desire to save His Son from pain and death

Conclusion:

- A. Are these nails enough to nail down: Your conviction? Your conversion? Your commitment?
- B. The nails in Christ's flesh did more than nail His body to the cross.