

The Three Nails

John 19:15-18, 36-37

Being brought up in a carpenter's shop in Nazareth, Jesus was **familiar with nails**. He used them all His life.

But **His greatest use of nails** was not done in a carpenter's shop. His greatest work was accomplished in just a few hours on Calvary when **with just three nails and two pieces of wood He built us a bridge** to heaven.

It wasn't nails of steel that held Jesus to the Cross. The nails that held Jesus to the cross were intangible but stronger than any physical nail.

Let me tell you about the real nails that held Christ to that old rugged cross...

I. The Nail of **SUBMISSION**.

A. Submission to **God's will**. Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane (Mt. 26:39, 42; Mk. 14:36; Luke 22:42).

➡ Jesus' obedience to the death of the cross (Phil. 2:7-8).

B. Submission to **our need** of salvation. He loved you and I. It was the only way He could make a way for us to be with Him forever in heaven.

II. The Nail of **SCRIPTURE** (John 19:36-37).

- The Scripture prophesied of Christ's crucifixion hundreds of years before crucifixion was a method of execution.

A. 1,000 years before Christ was born, Psalm 22 prophesied 33 details of Christ's crucifixion including the piercing of His hands and feet (Ps. 22:16).

B. Zechariah foretold of the piercing of Jesus' hands 500 years before He was crucified (Zech. 12:10; 13:6).

C. Lived on earth for 33 years in the shadow of the cross. He knew the nails and the cross was the fulfillment of God's purpose for His life— *"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even*

so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:14-15).

D. Jesus told Pilate before being crucified, *“To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world...” (John 18:37).*

➡ This was all done because the Scripture must be fulfilled.

III. The Nail of SIN — Sin nailed Christ to the Cross. If there were no sin, there would be no need for those three nails.

A. The sin of Adam and Eve nailed Jesus to the cross... The sins of Al Hughes... Your sins... nailed Christ to the cross.

➡ Our wrongdoing... our iniquities... our transgressions... our selfishness... our lying... our covetousness... nailed Him to the cross.

➡ Jesus took the nails that you and I deserved.

B. The prophet Isaiah wrote of Christ—*“He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isa. 53:5, 6).*

C. Each of us should understand that every time we sin we are in essence driving the nails into Jesus’ hands and feet.

SUMMATION: There’s something else about the cross—It demands a choice. You either step toward it or away from it. It is the great divider of men. You are either on one side or the other.

You can do what you want with the cross—You can examine its history. You can study its theology. You can reflect upon its prophecies. Yet the one thing you can’t do — **You cannot remain neutral.** No sitting on the fence. The cross demands, *“What will you do with Jesus?”*

Will you come to the cross and allow God to cleanse you and save your soul? Or will you reject Christ’s sacrifice for your sins and die and go to hell? The choice is yours!