

John 19:19-22

THE CROSS' SUPERSSCRIPTION

- I. What Pilate meant.
 - A. Pilate wrote what He heard the Sanhedrin say: vs. 12; Luke 23:2.
 - B. Pilate wrote what He heard Jesus say (vs. 37; Matt. 27:11; Mark 15:2; Luke 23:3).
 - C. Pilate's view of Jesus was evidenced in the way his guards treated Jesus (2,3; Matt. 27:29).
 - D. Pilate used this wording to respond to the Jews and to Jesus, using three languages so anyone who passed by would know.
- II. What the Jews meant.
 - A. They did want a Messiah, but for an earthly kingdom.
 - B. So they did not want this kind of a king.
 1. The superscription identified Jesus with them - very embarrassing, so they did not want to be associated with Him.
 2. The chief priests hurried to Pilate, very irritated, to ask him to change it.
 - C. Pilate is firm, even rejoicing at their irritation, for his job at them was successful.
 - D. The result was increased shame for Jesus as His own kinsmen according to the flesh rejected Him.
- III. God has His high and glorious purposes, and He is using the chief priests and Pilate to make His declaration.
 - A. First, Jesus is "of Nazareth," a real human who was identified by the city in which he was raised (Lk. 4:16).
 1. This was the common "I.D." given to Him as a public person (Lk. 4:34; 18:37; 24:19).
 2. Remember that this is also a mark of disgrace, for nothing good was to come out of Nazareth (John 1:46; 7:52).
 - B. Second, He is "Jesus," i.e., Savior, Jehovah's salvation.
 - C. Third, He is "the King of the Jews."
 1. He is of the tribe of Judah and He is a Son of David, a successor to King David.
 2. He is "the" King of the true, spiritual Jews (those with circumcised hearts, Rom. 2:28,29).
 3. He is crucified because He is the King and thus the cross and the superscription go together.
 - D. The eye of faith sees God's revelation describing Him as winning the battle; He is victorious.
 1. His Kingship softens the hardened sinner and proclaims the promise of soon entrance into Paradise.
 2. Is He your King? Do you live as under His rule?