

THE PASSION OF THE CROSS

Reading from the Word:

The passion of the cross was the last temptation which the Lord as the Greatest Prophet endured, and was the means whereby His Human was glorified—united with the Divine of the Father—but it was not redemption.

There are two things for which the Lord came into the world, and by means of which He saved people and angels—redemption and the glorification of His Human.... The work of redemption was a combat against the hells, a subjugation of the hells, and a restoration of order in the heavens. But glorification is the uniting of the Lord's Human with the Divine of His Father. This was effected gradually, and was completed through the passion of the cross.... The union itself was made complete through the passion of the cross, because that was the last temptation endured by the Lord in the world; and it is by means of temptations that conjunction is effected (*True Christian Religion* 126).

[T]he Lord did not take away sins by the passion of the cross. He takes them away or removes them in those who believe in Him by living according to His commandments.... [S]ins cannot be taken away from a person except by actual repentance, which consists in [a person] seeing his sins, imploring the Lord's help, and desisting from them (see *Doctrine of the Lord* 17).

It was through union with His Father—completed through the passion of the cross—that the Lord became the Redeemer to all eternity (see *True Christian Religion* 127).

True faith is... in the Lord God the Savior Jesus Christ and this is held by those who believe Him to be the Son of God, the God of heaven and earth, and one with the Father (*True Christian Religion* 379:1).

[The quality of the Lord's] glorified Human, He showed to Peter, James, and John when transfigured before them... The Lord was also seen by John as the sun shining in his strength (*Doctrine of the Lord* 35:6).

Possible Questions for Discussion:

1. What were the two things the Lord needed to do in order to save people and angels?
2. How did the Lord go about the work of redemption? Can you think of examples given in the Gospels that illustrate His combat against the hells?
3. What did the Lord's last temptation—the passion of the cross—accomplish?
4. Why didn't the Lord use His power to avoid being crucified?
5. What do these quotes from the Lord's Word teach us about the Lord's glorification?
6. How does the Lord take away our sins? Why are the steps of repentance essential for our salvation? (see *Doctrine of the Lord* 17)
7. What is true faith?
8. Some of the Lord's disciples saw Him transfigured and later glorified. How are we to think of the Lord Jesus Christ in His glorified Human?
 - Look up the accounts of the Lord's transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; and Luke 9:28-36 and write down all of the words that are used to describe the Lord.
 - Then look at how John saw the Lord as described in Revelation 1:16.