*Wednesday, March 23, 2011*

**It Takes Two**

Luke 23:43-46 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise. (44) And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. (45) And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. (46) And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. (KJV)

Now over the years within the Church there has been some confusion concerning what took place after the crucifixion, in other words, where did our Lord go? Well, as we see illustrated above, Jesus of Nazareth told the thief on the cross that this day they would reunite in paradise which was true, which was part of the answer. However, someone else took His place afterwards as well, in a place called hell.

Ephesians 4:7-10 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (8) Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (9) (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? (10) He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) (KJV)

So while the soul of Jesus would be in paradise, we see that Christ would descend to the lowest part, and folks it doesn’t get any lower than hell. Jesus of Nazareth paid the price by his death on the cross; Christ would spend three days and three nights in the belly of the earth to pay the Spiritual price for the sin of mankind.

Acts 2:30-31 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; (31) He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. (KJV)

So we see illustrated again in the Word that Christ would be the one to spend three days and three nights in hell so that mankind would not have to. It had to seem like an eternity for the Son of God who knew no sin to become sin for us and suffer the torment of being separated from His Father in Heaven. In order to understand how these scriptures line up and can be accurate, one needs to know how it takes two to accomplish what was needed on behalf of mankind to pay the price for our sin.

Romans 8:10-11 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. (11) But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. (KJV)

We see the distinction made again between the two, how God resurrected Christ from Spiritual death in hell, who then joined with the captives in paradise, then rose victoriously with the keys of hell and death.

Acts 2:32-36 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. (33) Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. (34) For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, (35) Until I make thy foes thy footstool. (36) Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. (KJV)

So we see the end result, that when our Lord resurrected and ascended to heaven, God made Jesus both Lord and Christ, the two becoming one forever seated at the right hand of the Father.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (KJV)

He who knew no sin became sin for us and paid the price in full. Jesus suffered the death on the cross; Christ suffered the spiritual death in hell being separated from His Father, for what must have seemed like an eternity to Him.