

Some quotations from the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

...The Lord did not take away sins by the passion of the cross; but ... He takes them away, that is, removes them, in those who believe in Him by living according to His commandments.... Sins cannot be taken away from a person except by actual repentance, which consists in seeing one's sins, imploring the Lord's help, and desisting from them....

Doctrine of the Lord, #17.2,3

In the sense of the letter of the Word, by 'the blood of the Lamb' is meant the passion of the cross.... The passion of the cross was the Lord's last temptation, by means of which He subjugated the Hells, and glorified His Human; on the completion of which the Lord sent the Comforter the Spirit of Truth, by which (also) is meant the Divine Truth proceeding from His glorified Human.... No Angel is allowed to think about the Lord's passion; but about His glorification; and about the reception of the Divine from Him.

Apocalypse Explained, #476.2

Redemption and the passion of the cross are two distinct things, and are not at all to be confounded; ...by means of both the Lord took to Himself the power to regenerate and save humankind....

True Christian Religion, #581

...The passion of the cross was the last temptation which the Lord as the Greatest Prophet sustained; and that it was the means of the glorification of His Human, that is, of union with the Divine of His Father; and was not redemption.

True Christian Religion. #126

Jehovah God descended into the world as divine truth, in order that He might accomplish the work of redemption; this consisted in subduing the hells, bringing the heavens into order, and after this restoring the church. The divine good cannot effect this, but he divine truth from divine good can. The divine good, considered in itself, is like the hilt of a sword, a blunt shaft, or a bow without arrows; but the divine truth from the divine good is like a sharp sword, or a pointed spear-shaft, or a bow with arrows....

True Christian Religion. #86

Redemption could not have been effected, and hence neither could salvation have been ensured, except by God incarnated. The Word of the Old and New Testament teaches that God was incarnated. Before God was incarnated all the worship of the church foreshadowed ... Him after His incarnation, and hence ... was that worship Divine. God Incarnated is Jehovah our Righteousness, Jehovah our Redemption, Jehovah our Salvation, and Jehovah our Truth; ...all these are meant by the two names, Jesus Christ. God not incarnated could not have fought against the hells and conquered them; ...could not have been tempted, still less have suffered the cross; ... could not have been seen and known; and thus could not have been approached and so could not have been conjoined to humankind and angels. Faith in God not incarnated is impossible, but only in Him incarnated. Hence it was said by the ancients, that "no one can see God and live" and by the Lord...: "no one hath seen the shape of the Father nor heard His voice...." From all this it follows, that redemption could by no means have been effected except by means of God Incarnated; and there could have been no salvation except by God Incarnated, that is, by the Lord the Redeemer and Savior; which salvation is perpetual redemption....

Canons viii

4 / 1 / 2007

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM
BIBLE STUDY & SWEDENBORGIAN IDEAS
LENT 6: SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

The triumphant entry of Jesus (on what we now celebrate as Palm Sunday) is followed by an escalating controversy with the religious leaders culminating in His betrayal and crucifixion. Jesus had declared to his disciples on three occasions that this would take place to fulfill prophecy. In subtle ways we often reject, and, in effect, destroy God's endeavor to lead us. Recognition of such is part of the process of repentance and reformation .

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Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King." Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered him and said, "It is as you say." So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man." But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place." When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod.... Then Herod questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. I will therefore chastise Him and release Him...." And they all cried out at once, saying, "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas...." Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested.

There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.' " Having said this, He breathed His last. So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!" And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.