**Jesus Christ, Suffering**: Seventeen abuses.

1. They ***scourged*** Christ

Mt 27:26 Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

He was stripped and beaten with a whip. This was a savage, excruciating punishment. The whip (*phragelloo*) was made of leather straps sharp bones or spikes, so that they would cut deeply into the flesh. His hands were tied to a post above His head and He was scourged (John 19:1). It was the custom for the prisoner to be lashed until He was judged near death by the presiding centurion (Jewish trials allowed only forty lashes.) The criminal's back was, of course, nothing more than an unrecognizable **mass of torn flesh**.

Two important facts.

1)  Christ was being punished and chastised for our sins:

Isaiah 53:5 But 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.

2)  Christ suffered the chastisement for our sins *willingly*:

Isa 50:6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

1. They **humiliated** Christ before a hundred or more soldiers

Mt 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers

Note the words, "the whole band" (*speiran*[PWS: 263](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=B\#263: Band Of Soldiers)). A *band* of soldiers usually meant a *cohort* which was made up of six hundred soldiers. However, "band" (*speiran*) sometimes meant maniple. Every cohort consisted of three maniples, about two hundred soldiers. Which is meant here is not known. Most believe the number of soldiers was large, certainly close to the two hundred serving in a maniple.

 Christ was humiliated and made a spectacle in order to save us. We are willing to be spectacles for Christ in order to reach some for Him.

1Cor. 4:9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

Hebrews 10:32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;

33 Partly, whilst ye were **made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.**

34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

1. They **stripped** Christ and put a scarlet robe on Him

Mt 27:28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

Christ was stripped *naked and shamed* and made to appear *ridiculous* by putting on Him a faded royal robe. (Purple faded to scarlet)

1. Sin made Him naked and shamed him. We are naked before Him who is to judge the world. Christ was stripped naked and shamed that He might secure clothing that is white and pure (A Robe of Righteousness).

Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Eph 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

**2.** Christ (*bore*) the scarlet robe for us. Symbolized, He was to bear our sins.

a. He wore the scarlet robe, our sins can be as white as snow.

 Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

b. He wore the scarlet robe we can wash our robes in the blood of the lamb.

 Re 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

1. They **put a crown of thorns on His head** and a reed in His hands

Mt 27:29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

A mock crown was made out of some limbs from a thorn bush and jammed upon His head. The thorns pierced through the skin of His brow and under His hair. Blood streamed down his head and face. A mock sceptre was made out of the weak, limber reed and thrust into His hand.

Thorns are a symbol of God's *curse* upon the earth, a result of sin ([Genesis 3:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+3%3A18)). Christ was bearing the sin that brought about the curse. He was made a curse for us.

**"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" (**[**Galatians 3:13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A13)**).**

1. Christ held the limber, weak reed, the reed that is so easily shaken with the wind, that wavers and withers and wastes away. He held the reed that symbolizes the weak kingdoms of the world, kingdoms that are so easily shaken and withered and wasted away. He held it as part of His sufferings so that He might secure an eternal sceptre, an eternal throne and kingdom.

Mt 11:7 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

**"But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of thy kingdom" (**[**Hebrews 1:8**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+1%3A8)**).**

1. They **bowed the Knee and ridiculed** the claim of Christ to be king ([Matthew 27:29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A29)). They ridiculed His claim to be king by *jokingly* bowing the knee before Him and mockingly shouting, "Hail, King of the Jews." They scorned Him as a sham Fake False fool king.

**1**. The day is coming when bowing the knee and confessing Christ to be Lord will be no joke. There will be no mocking and no scorning in that day.

 Php 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

6.  They **spit** upon Christ ([Matthew 27:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A30)). (Cp. [Isaiah 50:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+50%3A6).) It was the custom for subjects to kiss their rulers as a sign of homage and allegiance. The soldiers gave the Lord a mock allegiance by spitefully spitting in His face.

**1**. Christ bore the spite, spitting, and mocking homage in order to deliver men from perishing. But the day has now come when the Lord is not to be spit upon, but kissed. He is to be given a genuine, not a mocking allegiance.

Mt 27:18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

**"Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him" (**[**Psalm 2:12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+2%3A12)**).**

7.  They **beat Christ on the head with the reed** ([Matthew 27:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A30)). The Greek word for "smote Him" (*etupto*, imperfect tense) means they *kept on beating Him*. They took the reed, the mock sceptre, and used it as a weapon, beating Him on the head continuously. They probably passed the reed from one soldier to another, giving many an opportunity to vent their folly and spite. He was bruised and bleeding, a horrible sight.

**1**. Two important facts.

1)  **"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities" (**[**Isaiah 53:5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+53%3A5)**).**

2)  **"It pleased the Lord to bruise Him" (**[**Isaiah 53:10**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+53%3A10)**).**

8.  They stripped Christ of the kingly robe and put His own robe back on Him, aggravating the wounds. They were now ready to get to the matter at hand, His crucifixion. As they stripped the kingly robe off, two things happened.

a.  The dried bood clinging to the robe ripped away from the wounds. In excruciating pain His blood began to flow from the wounds again.

b.  In removing the kingly robe, the soldiers were stripping Him of the authority they had given Him. It was just a mock authority and homage, but it had symbolized the attitude of the world toward paying homage to God's Son.

**1**. No man determines the authority of God's Son. He possesses authority because He is God's Son, not because man gives Him authority. God has given Him all authority and rule because He has borne the sufferings and death of the cross for man.

**"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (**[Matthew 28:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+28%3A18)**).**

**"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: that all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him" (**[John 5:22-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+5%3A22-23)**).**

**2**. "The blood of Jesus Christ His (God's) Son cleanseth us from all sin" ([1 John 1:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+1%3A7),9).

9.  They forced Christ to carry the cross until He was exhausted ([Matthew 27:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A32)). The condemned criminal carrying his own cross was the common practice. A centurion riding upon his stallion led the way. A herald followed, shouting out the criminal charges against the condemned. Immediately behind the herald was the condemned man bearing his cross and a small detachment of soldiers. The criminal had to carry his cross up and down through the streets of the city, taking a meandering route. The Romans did this as a living lesson to the citizens of a city that crime did not pay.

**1**. Note two important facts.

1)  Man forced Christ to carry the cross to Golgotha. There is a spiritual symbol here. Spiritually, it is man's sin that forced Christ to bear the cross for man.

**"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (**[**1 Peter 2:24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+2%3A24)**).**

2)  God ordained Christ to bear the cross for man.

**"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" (**[**Acts 2:23**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+2%3A23)**).**

10.  They enlisted a Gentile to help with the cross of Christ ([Matthew 27:32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A32)). Christ broke under the weight of the cross. This is not surprising, for He had just suffered so much...

•  suffered the agony of the Garden.

•  suffered the tension and excitement of the trials.

•  suffered the ridicule and torture of the soldiers.

He had lost too much blood from the savage torture, and He had gone without food and sleep for hours. The soldiers had the legal authority to tap a bystander upon the shoulder and enlist the citizen to help with whatever load needed carrying. In this case, of course, they needed someone to carry the cross for Christ. They tapped Simon of Cyrene and he bore the cross for Christ. It is an event used by God to change the life of Simon forever (see note—• [Mark 15:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=591&tocpath=Mark%20Commentary\Mark\IX.%20THE%20SON%20OF%20GOD'S%20PASSION%20MINISTRY:%20JESUS'%20SUPREME%20SACRIFICE--REJECTED%20AND%20CRUCIFIED,%2014:1-15:47\L.%20Jesus'%20Cross:%20An%20Outline%20of%20Its%20Mockery%20and%20Events,%2015:16-41\3.%20The%20man%20who%20bore%20Jesus'%20cross:%20A%20picture%20of%20conversion%20by%20picking%20up%20the%20cross%20(v.21))).

**1**. Christ bore the cross for us that He might enlist us in the service of God. Even as He bore the cross, we are now to bear the cross for Him. Simon literally bore the cross, symbolizing that we are to bear the cross for Christ spiritually (see note—• [Luke 9:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=593&tocpath=Luke%20Commentary\Luke\IV.%20THE%20SON%20OF%20MAN'S%20INTENSIVE%20PREPARATION%20OF%20HIS%20DISCIPLES%20FOR%20JERUSALEM%20AND%20DEATH,%209:18-50\B.%20The%20Terms%20of%20Discipleship,%209:23-27\1.%20The%20terms%20of%20discipleship%20(v.23))).

**"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (**[**Luke 9:23**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+9%3A23)**).**

11.  They led Christ to a terrible place for execution ([Matthew 27:33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A33)). The place was called **Golgotha**, the place of a skull. Why it was given this name is not known. But note that it was known as a place of death, of dead men's bones. It was a rugged place which stirred thoughts of death, of corruptible and decaying flesh. It was a terrible place to die.

**1**. Even the very place where Christ was crucified symbolized death itself. Every act seemed to point to His dying for the deliverance of man. Here upon Golgotha was the picture or thought of death, and here upon Golgotha He was to die to deliver all men from the bondage of death.

**"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (**[**Hebrews 2:14-15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A14-15)**).**

**2**. Christ was judged unworthy to live among the people of the world, so He was led out of the city and sent out of the world through execution. He was cast out of the vineyard ([Matthew 21:39](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+21%3A39)). In the Old Testament the sacrifice of animals took place outside the camp and the blood was brought into the congregation. The Lamb of God was led outside the gate as a sheep is led to the slaughter.

**"For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (**[**Hebrews 13:11-12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A11-12)**).**

**3**. He bore the reproach of sin for us. We should, therefore, bear the reproach of righteousness for Him.

**"Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach" (**[**Hebrews 13:13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+13%3A13)**).**

12.  They gave Christ vinegar mixed with gall ([Matthew 27:34](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A34)). It was the custom to give the criminal spiked wine right before he was raised on the cross. The spiked wine was a strong stupefying liquor used as a narcotic drink. Scripture foretold this event ([Psalm 69:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+69%3A21)).

**1**. Christ came to do the will of God, to die as a sacrifice for man. He refused to do God's will unthoughtfully, with deadened senses and a semi-conscious mind. He had work to do in sacrificing His life for man: He was to taste death for all men, and He would taste it in full consciousness and by being as mentally alert as possible.

**"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (**[**Hebrews 2:9**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A9)**).**

**"In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God....By the which will we are sacrificed through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (**[**Hebrews 10:6-7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A6-7)**,** [**10**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A10)**).**

13.  They crucified Christ ([Matthew 27:35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A35)). The crucifixion itself was the most horrible of deaths. The ancient writer, Tacitus, called it "a despicable death." Cicero called it "the most cruel and horrifying death." He simply said it was "incapable of description." There was the pain of the driven spikes forced through the flesh of His hands and feet or ankles. There was the weight of His body jolting and pulling against the spikes as the cross was lifted and rocked into place. There was the scorching sun and the unquenchable thirst gnawing away at His dry mouth and throat. There was the blood oozing from His scourged back, His thorn crowned brow, His feet, and His stick beaten head. In addition, just imagine the aggravation of flies, gnats, and other insects. There was also the piercing of the spear thrust into His side. On and on the sufferings could be described. There has never been a more cruel form of execution than crucifixion upon a cross.

**Thought 1**. In the simplest of terms, Christ was crucified for our sins in order to bring us to God.

**"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (**[**1 Peter 2:24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+2%3A24)**).**

**"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (**[**1 Peter 3:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+3%3A18)**).**

14.  They gambled for the clothes of Christ ([Matthew 27:35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A35)). Apparently, it was a custom for the executing soldiers to claim whatever they wished of the clothes of the crucified criminal. The soldiers stripped Christ and divided His clothes among themselves. His coat was valuable. It was seamless, one piece of cloth, woven from top to bottom just as the high Priest's coat or cloak was. The soldiers, therefore, decided to gamble by casting lots for it ([John 19:23-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+19%3A23-24)). This event was foretold in [Psalm 22:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+22%3A18).

**Thought 1**. Note two things.

1)  Christ was stripped by the soldiers. But He stripped Himself of His glory in order to become man and die for us.

**"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (**[**Hebrews 2:14-15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A14-15)**).**

2)  The coat was a symbol of Christ, *the Mediator*, the Pontifex, which means in Latin, *the bridge-builder* between God and man.

**"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (**[**1 Tim. 2:5-6**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+2%3A5-6)**).**

15.  They sat down and stared at Christ ([Matthew 27:36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A36)). Death by crucifixion was usually slow, very slow. It sometimes took days for the sufferer to die from his agony. Hence, soldiers had to be posted to guard the sufferer to keep any friends from trying to save him from death. In dealing with Christ, the soldiers' horseplay and work in crucifying Him was now done. They had only to wait. They sat down and watched Him hanging there. We can imagine what they saw by picturing what He looked like after all the torture and by reviewing the seven sayings of the cross. Hanging there naked, being stared at, the whole scene was a shameful sight. The embarrassment of the shame must have cut the heart of Christ to the core. The stare of the soldiers was prophesied ([Psalm 22:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+22%3A17)).

**Thought 1**. Sin is the nakedness, the shame, of man. Sin strips man and makes him naked before God. The cross is the shame of Christ, yet He bore the shame of the cross for us.

**"I counsel thee to buy of me...white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear" (**[**Rev. 3:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+3%3A18)**).**

**"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (**[**Hebrews 12:2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+12%3A2)**).**

**Thought 2**. God, in His providence, saw that guards were posted around the cross. Why? So that there could never be any legitimate question about His Son really dying.

**Thought 3**. What the honest and thinking soldier saw was a noble, righteous man being unjustly put to death.

**"And when the centurion, which stood over against Him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God" (**[**Mark 15:39**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+15%3A39)**).**

16.  They shamed Christ and reproached His claim again ([Matthew 27:37](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A37)). It was the custom for the charges against a crucified criminal to be written out on a board and nailed to the cross above his head. This served both as information and as a warning to the public. It, of course, added shame and reproach to the crucified sufferer. In Christ's case, the charges were written in three different languages ([John 19:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+19%3A20)). Note the exact words, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews." This inscription disturbed the religious leaders. They went to Pilate and said, "Write not, the King of the Jews; but that He said, I am King of the Jews." Pilate simply answered, "What I have written, I have written" ([John 19:21-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+19%3A21-22)).

**Thought 1**. God overruled the shame and reproach of our Lord. God saw to it that the very charges against Him proclaimed His deity and honor. He was proclaimed King in three languages, languages which symbolized the world: the Aramaic (Jews), the Latin (the Gentiles), and the Greek (the intellectual Jew and Gentile).

**"He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (**[**Phil. 2:8-11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+2%3A8-11)**).**

**"Our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen" (**[**1 Tim. 6:14-16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+6%3A14-16)**).**

17.  They added shame and reproach by crucifying Christ between two thieves ([Matthew 27:38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+27%3A38)). Perhaps this was a day set aside for execution. Or perhaps the Jewish leaders pressed Pilate to execute Jesus with other criminals. Such would add weight to their position that He was no more than a mere man, an imposter who deserved to die just as other criminals. Whatever the reason, the fact that the Son of God was executed right along with other criminals added to the shame and reproach He bore. Again, this event had been prophesied ([Isaiah 53:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+53%3A12)).

Christ was counted as a sinner that He might bear the sin of many.

**"He was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors" (**[**Isaiah 53:12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+53%3A12)**).**

**"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (**[**1 Tim. 1:15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+1%3A15)**).**