

**“THE BITTER CUP”**  
*Three Hours For Eternity*

**TEXT:** Luke 22: 39-44, Mark 14: 35-36, John 18: 11

Introduction: This **“CUP”**, What was it?

**1. THE CUP WAS NOT:**

- A. It was not the fear of betrayal... the devil’s kiss came quickly
- B. It was not the sorrow of denial... All the disciples but John forsook Him
- C. It was not the terror of death... the Saviour “set His face as a flint” (Isaiah 50: 7)
- D. It was not the onslaught of hell... (His sweat became as great drops of blood)  
\*Warned His disciples to watch and pray that they enter not into temptation

**2. THE THREE-FOLD MANIFESTATION OF THE CUP:**

- A. The hour of divine agony:
  - 1. Forsaken... “Why hast Thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27: 46)  
\*Martin Luther to his students after pondering that statement: “God, forsaken of God! Who can comprehend it?”
  - 2. Smitten (Isaiah 53: 4-5, 10-11)
    - a. The sacrifice of holy blood (Hebrews 9: 22)
    - b. The perfect substitute (1 Peter 2: 24, 3: 18)
    - c. Total satisfaction (“It pleased the Lord...”)  
\*\*“Pleased” = Satisfied the demand: “death for sin!” (Romans 6: 23-26)  
(Propitiation)
- B. The hour of divine indignation:
  - 1. Against the reprehensibility of sin
  - 2. Payment in full... Death! (Romans 6: 23)  
\*Private Sam Watkins the morning after the battle of Franklin, Tennessee during the War Between The States, considering the fierce battle that had been engaged, was reminded of the battle fought and won by the Saviour at Calvary: “Where justice said well done, and mercy erased all wrongs!”
- C. The hour of divine triumph:
  - 1. The bitter cup turned sweet! Greek “Tetelestai!” (John 19: 30) “Finished!”
    - a. Redemption’s price paid... the shedding of perfect blood
    - b. Death overwhelmed and conquered! “Why seek ye the living among...”
  - 2. The hour that earned the undying devotion of the redeemed!

**SONG:** “When I survey the wondrous cross” (Dr. Isaac Watts) Read!  
\*Conversion refrain in mind when John Newton was saved