

which man devised He was sneered at, laughed at, stripped of His clothes, mocked and tortured, bruised, and certainly as we think of artists trying to represent this scene at Calvary all of their work is inadequate. We must not forget that the cross was an instrument of torture and that it was very real and ugly physical instrument made of rough, heavy wood upon which a man actually died in anguish. We remember the story of Anton Lang. Lang carried a cross in the famous Passion Play that is put on over at Oberammergau. And he was questioned about this cross. He had played the part so well and he bore this cumbersome heavy cross as Christ had borne. And he replied that indeed our Master endured an awful beating with a whip and He suffered the cruel death upon a cross. And he says we never should as Christians forget the realities and the evils of this cross that no little light cross would do.

The Roman soldiers were very valient and very tough. They spread Rome's dominion far and they conquered many lands and they subdued ~~grk~~ brave people and they took over rich cities. They loved their homes, their families, and their country but they were ~~unwilling~~ under stern discipline of the army life.

The hardships of many campaigns they had endured. They scorned soft living and these soldiers are always just men as in our modern armies today. We know that they are drawn from the civilian ranks. Their virtues and their vices are civilian's

Why He Did Not Hang on the Cross Longer?
John 19:31-37

INTRODUCTION: We think of Jesus being crucified and this account here like a huge locomotive making 100 miles an hour on a dark night without a headlight it approaches a place where the tressle has been washed out. The engineer discovers this danger but he has no brakes. And he plunges out into the darkness. It seems like this is a situation concerning the cross of Jesus that He has now plunged out into the darkness. No wonder the earth quakes, no wonder nature protested no wonder the grave opened, and it is no wonder that darkness covered the earth.

I. Why did not Christ hang longer on the cross? Verse 31

to allow
It was the custom of the Romans ~~to crucify~~ the body of the crucified to remain of the cross until it rotted away. That practice was observed for the same reason that our ancestors permitted the executed criminals to hang in chains until their bones fell asunder. It was intended to deepen the shame of the death and to also intensify the horror of the crime. A person generally survived the sufferings of the cross more than one day and some times several days. This was the Roman custom to leave the body until it decayed.

We read in the book of Deuteronomy 21:23 that according to the law of Moses there was provided that if the body of an executed criminal were hung on a tree it should not remain