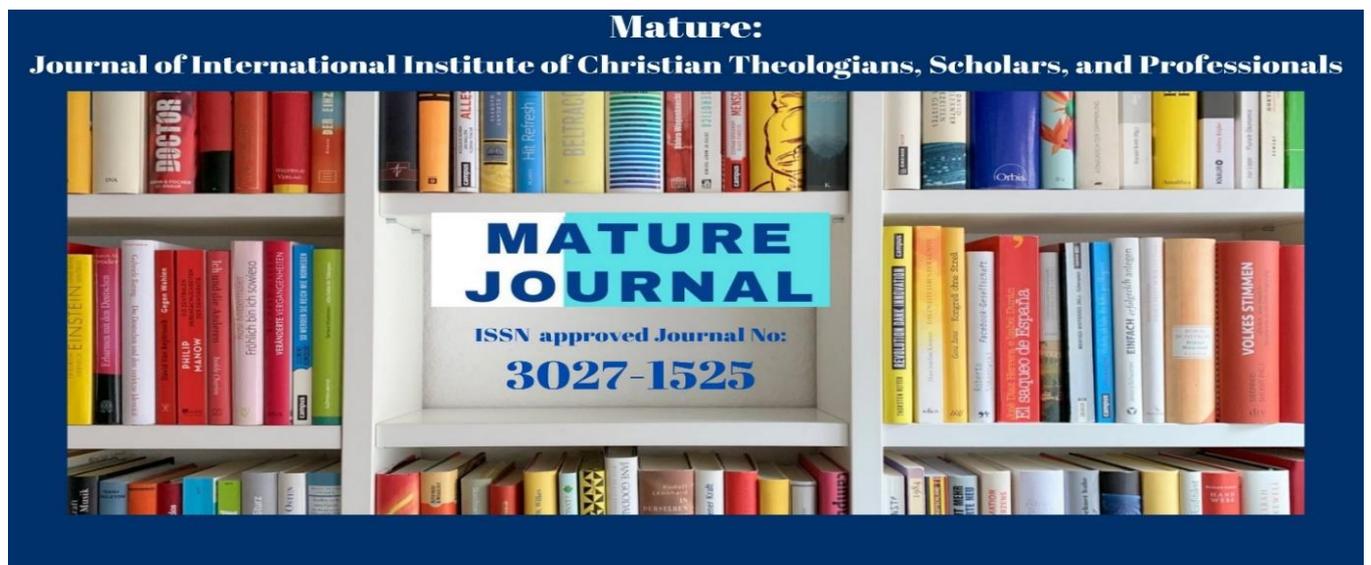


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## **THE SECOND SUFFERING OF CHRIST**

Dr. Venunye Kwaku AHAMAKAH

National President in Council of the International Institute of Christian Theologians,  
Scholars, and Professionals (ICTSP), Ghana

### **ABSTRACT**

The priceless opportunity and privileges Christians enjoy is truth which has been revealed through Christ as the holy scriptures say you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free (John 8:32). Abiding in this truth manifests through an apparent exhibition of love since Jesus Christ who is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). Unfortunately, in this end time season where Christians must focus more on the salvation of souls as commissioned by Christ in Matthew 28, there are a lot of rots in the body of Christ lately raging from men of God attacking one another directly in the pulpit with hatred, church members condemning other churches, heresies being preached, immoralities among Christians on the increase and yet people use the once saved forever saved as a cover up for their ungodly acts because they believe once Christ died as atonement for our sins, we can do anything and still be saved. It is also no longer a secret that there are many who claim to be called by God into ministry who now use the social media platforms to give prophetic directions that a relatively fetish. This article is an opinion article that seeks to point out some ungodly practices that tend to make the death of Christ futile. The author of this article will only express his views under some thematic areas in this article. The author will speak based on practical observations and make references from the scriptures.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The importance of Christ in Christianity cannot be overstated. According to Scripture, Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came to earth to save humanity from sin and offer eternal salvation. In John 14:6, Jesus declares, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me." This verse highlights the exclusive role of Jesus Christ as the only means by which one can have a relationship with God and attain eternal life.

Furthermore, Christ's sacrificial death on the cross is central to the Christian faith. As stated in Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This verse underscores the profound love of God in sending His Son to die for the sins of the world, providing a way for reconciliation and redemption. The selfless act of Jesus Christ in sacrificing Himself for humanity's sake serves as a powerful reminder of the immense value and importance of His role in the Christian faith. Another critical aspect of Christ's significance lies in His role as the source of spiritual nourishment and guidance for believers. In John 6:35, Jesus declares, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." This metaphorical statement emphasizes the essential role of Jesus Christ in sustaining the spiritual life of His followers and providing the necessary sustenance for their journey of faith. The importance of Christ in Christianity cannot be marginalized. Through His teachings, sacrificial death, and role as the source of spiritual nourishment, Jesus Christ plays a central and indispensable role in the lives of believers. As articulated in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." This verse encapsulates the profound significance of Christ in offering salvation and eternal life to all who put their trust and faith in Him.

## **PRACTICES AMONG CHRISTIANS THAT NAIL CHRIST ON THE CROSS THE SECOND TIME**

Living an ungodly lifestyle as a Christian is a topic that needs to be addressed within the church community. It is important for believers to understand the implications of straying away from God's commandments and living in a manner that does not align with His will. The Bible provides clear guidance on how Christians are to live their lives and the consequences of living in disobedience to God's Word.

One of the key scriptures that address ungodly lifestyles among Christians is found in 1 John 2:15-17, which states, "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the

world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." This passage highlights the importance of not conforming to the ways of the world and instead, focusing on living a life that is pleasing to God. Another scripture that addresses ungodly lifestyles among Christians is found in Galatians 5:19-21, which lists the acts of the flesh and warns believers against participating in them. It states, "The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." This passage serves as a strong reminder to Christians about the consequences of living in disobedience to God's commands. Unfortunately, these things as describes in Galatians as fruits of the flesh have taken a better part of the hearts Christians and it has marred the reputation of Christianity as unbelievers' expectations are not met by our behavior.

It is crucial for Christians to understand that living in an ungodly manner not only affects their relationship with God but also their witness to others. In Matthew 5:16, Jesus instructs believers to let their light shine before others so that they may see their good deeds and glorify God. By living in a manner that is ungodly, Christians are failing to fulfill this command and are instead compromising their witness to the world. It is worth mentioning that the redemptive work of Christ is taken for granted by many believers who are as it were, supposed to be the light of the world. Christians nowadays have rather engrossed themselves in open sin- dressing half- naked to church, alcoholism before and after church among the youths, no conscious salvation messages in some church gatherings, young ones chasing after married men and women for material gains and pleasures. It is disheartening to realise that during secular programs like pool parties, jams, night clubs among others, Christians who attend such programs are overwhelming whereas you hardly find them at bible studies, prayer meetings or Sunday services. It is very common among believers to harbor grudges and hate each other such that people do not sit by their counterparts because of enmity. One of the most challenging issue is Christians find it difficult to separate the worship of Christ from their traditional way of life which they normally refer to as culture. As such, most believers especially in our orthodox churches visit spiritualist or witch doctors to consult with the spirits of their dead relatives and loved ones. It has also been observed that some ministers of the gospel are using charms to perform miracles and lure innocent souls to destruction. Some of them go to the extent of

sleeping with females both single and married under the guise of deliverance. It has also been observed that some ministers attack their fellow with charms and some hire false witnesses to testify against others just to deprecate them. Addiction to pornography and alcohol and many others have become prevalent in the body of Christ. It is observed that many Christians are comfortable in their weaknesses just because Jesus said in Mark 10:18 “why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.” Most believers anchor their argument on this scripture that if Christ himself says He is not good then God will understand their weaknesses. Hebrews 6:6 says “... and who turn away from God, ... they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to the public shame (NLT).” It is important for Christians to strive to live a life that is pleasing to God and to avoid falling into the trap of ungodly lifestyles. By following God's commands and seeking His guidance, believers can live a life that honours and glorifies Him. As Romans 12:2 states, ‘Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.’ May we all strive to live in obedience to God's Word and be a light to the world around us.

### **ARGUMENTS AMONG MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL**

It is not uncommon in recent times to see or hear ministers of the gospel arguing over doctrines from the bible. Whereas Christians need a united front to win souls for Christ, ministers of the gospel as well as their congregants are busily debating with hatred. Some of these include:

- a. whether Jesus is God or not
- b. whether it is good or not to pay tithe?
- c. Whether once saved forever saved or we need to work out our salvation by deeds and faith.
- d. Whether one can go to heaven without baptism by immersion or not.
- e. Whether women can preach in the pulpit or not.
- f. Whether it is good to marry many wives as a Christian or not.
- g. Whether a born- again Christian can make heaven even when fallen in sin or not.
- h. Whether it is good for women to leave their hairs uncovered in the place of worship or not.
- i. Whether it is good to celebrate Christmas and Easter or not.
- j. Whether it is good to baptize by sprinkling water or immersion
- k. Whether it is good to speak in tongues or not.

1. Which of the fivefold ministries is the greatest?

These and many more have taken the center stage of argument whereas souls are perishing crimes are on the increase every now and then. It is very pathetic for us to embrace such issues as though they were the most important things to focus on.

### **CHALLENGES OF DISAGREEMENT AMONG MINISTERS TO BELIEVERS**

Misunderstandings among pastors can have a significant impact on church members, affecting their spiritual growth, sense of community, and overall well-being. When pastors are not on the same page or have conflicting opinions, it can lead to confusion and division among the congregation. This can create a lack of unity and cohesion within the church, leading to a breakdown in communication and trust among members. One of the key ways misunderstanding among pastors affects members is through conflicting messages and teachings. If pastors are not aligned in their theological beliefs or interpretations of scripture, it can create confusion and uncertainty for the congregation. Members may struggle to know what to believe or who to trust, ultimately hindering their spiritual growth and development. Additionally, misunderstandings among pastors can lead to power struggles and discord within the church leadership. When pastors are not able to effectively work together and collaborate, it can create a toxic environment that trickles down to the members. This can result in a lack of leadership and direction within the church, leaving members feeling lost and unsupported.

Furthermore, misunderstandings among pastors can lead to gossip, rumors, and negative attitudes within the congregation. Members may take sides or form cliques based on their allegiance to a particular pastor, further deepening the divisions within the church. This can create a toxic environment that is not conducive to spiritual growth and development. Misunderstandings among pastors can also affect the overall morale and sense of community within the church. When pastors are not able to effectively communicate and work together, it can lead to a sense of disconnection and isolation among members. This can erode the sense of belonging and fellowship that is vital to a thriving church community. Moreover, misunderstandings among pastors can create a lack of accountability and oversight within the church. When pastors are not able to hold each other accountable or work together to address issues within the congregation, it can create a culture of complacency and indifference. This can lead to a lack of growth and progress within the church, ultimately hindering the spiritual development of its members. Additionally, misunderstandings among pastors can lead to a lack of consistency and stability in the church. When pastors are not able to work together to create

a unified vision and mission for the congregation, it can create a sense of uncertainty and instability among members. This can lead to a lack of trust and confidence in the leadership, further undermining the spiritual growth and well-being of the members.

In conclusion, misunderstandings among pastors can have a profound impact on church members, affecting their spiritual growth, sense of community, and overall well-being. It is essential for pastors to communicate effectively, work together collaboratively, and prioritize unity and cohesion within the church. By addressing misunderstandings and conflicts proactively, pastors can create a healthy and supportive environment that fosters spiritual growth and development among members.

## **CONCLUSION**

Many believers do not seem to be serious with the salvation of their souls. This is a great worry to Christ Jesus because He will not be happy losing the souls He came to die for to Satan. Since Jesus has already made the sacrifice, it is a big challenge to the body of Christ as to how to actually redeem these souls. It would be easier preaching to an unbeliever for repentance than to a man who has confessed Christ and still living deviant lifestyle. Hebrews 6:4 says “for it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened- those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy spirit” (NLT).

### **About The Author**



Dr. (Apostle) Venunye Kwaku Ahamakah is a senior High School teacher, and a trained counsellor. He holds a B.A. in Ewe Education with a specialisation in Linguistics and Literature, a B.A. in Christian Ministry and Leadership, a M.A. in Biblical Theology, an

Advance Diploma in Applied Biblical Studies and Ministry, an Executive Diploma in Christian Leadership and Biblical Counselling, and a Certificate in Apostolic Ministry. Dr. Ahamakah received an Ambassadorial/Doctoral degree in Christian education and leadership (Honoris Causa) from the International Institute of Christian Theologians, Scholars, and Professionals. He is a registered member and Certified Christian Scholar of the International Institute of Christian Theologians, Scholars, and Professionals (ICTSP) and a National President in Council of the Institute in Ghana. At present, a Doctorate student in Christian Leadership and Management Studies, Wiltshire, UK.