

WHY WAS IT NECESSARY FOR JESUS TO DIE?

Romans 5:12-21

An important question that needs to be asked is...*Why was it necessary for Jesus to be crucified...Why was it necessary for Jesus Christ to die?* If truly without sin...why did He have to suffer so much?

This then begs the question...*What does this have to do with me?*

The central issue of Jesus' death and the cross is not the *cause* or *reason* He died...but the *purpose...God's purpose!*

It has always been God's *purposed design* that it would take *blood* to *atone* for man's sin. It goes all the way back to the **Garden of Eden** and **Adam** and **Eve's** sin.

"When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings."

~Genesis 3:6-7

God rejected the covering that **Adam** and **Eve** made and Scripture states that He covered them with **garments of skin**.

"The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them."

~Genesis 3:21

The only way to have a **garment of skin** is for a *sacrifice* to take place...*blood atonement*. The reason it takes *blood* is also stated in Scripture.

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement...For the life of all flesh is its blood."

~Leviticus 17:11, 14b

"...All things are cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

~Hebrews 9:22

So, what did God achieve for sinners like us in sending His Son to die? *Forgiveness of sin...atonement...victory over death...the penalty for sin paid...resurrection...eternal life!*

Everyone wants to think of God as **love**...and He is **love**. He loves us with an **everlasting love**.

"God is love."

~I John 4:8b

"We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love..."

~I John 4:16

But no one wants to think of God as **judge**...but He is **just**...and He demands **justice**.

"And He will by no means let the guilty go unpunished."

~Exodus 34:7b

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left."

~Matthew 25:31-33

For those who have trusted in Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone for salvation...they will be *seated on His right*...and they will hear:

"...Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

~Matthew 25:34

But for those who have rejected God's grace and gift of eternal life...they need to recognize that...

"...He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished..."

~Exodus 34:7

And therefore, they will hear:

"He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels'."

~Matthew 25:41

Why did Jesus come to die?

I. TO ABSORB THE WRATH OF GOD:

To understand this, we must first look at what the Bible says about **man**.

- Man is a **sinner**.
- He **cannot save** himself.

Judgment has been pronounced...

“For the wages of sin is death...”

~Romans 6:23

“...The soul who sins will die.”

~Ezekiel 18:4

The tension of this dilemma comes into sharper focus when we look at what the Bible says about **God**.

- God is **holy**.
- God is **love**.
- God is **perfect** (His standard is measured based on perfection).
- God is **just**.

Ponder this for a moment...if God were not **just**, there would be no **need** or **demand** for His Son to suffer and die. And if He were not **loving**, there would be no **willingness** for His Son to suffer and die. But God is both **just** and **loving**. Therefore, His **love** is **willing** to meet the **demands** of His **justice**.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us...for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’.”

~Galatians 3:13

“Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; God displayed publicly (Jesus) as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed.”

~Romans 3:24-25

Propitiation...refers to *the removal of God’s wrath by providing a substitute. A sacrifice that removes God’s wrath, and in so doing changes it to favor towards us.* In the Old Testament it was a *lamb*.

The New Testament substitute, *Jesus Christ*, does not just *cancel* the wrath...He *removes* it from us and *absorbs* it to Himself.

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

~II Corinthians 5:21

God’s wrath is **just**. It was *spent* (paid for)...*not withdrawn*.

We will never stand in awe of being **loved** by God, until we reckon with the *seriousness of our sin* and the *justice of His wrath* that it demands against us. When we *awaken*...by His **grace**...to our *unworthiness*...that’s when we will be able to look at Christ and realize:

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

~I John 4:10

II. TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR OUR JUSTIFICATION:

Jesus Christ...**Who is He?**

A lot of people...and even some religions will admit that Jesus Christ was *a good man*...some will even say that He was *a prophet*. But He was much more than that...He is *God in human form*...He is *God incarnate*.

But just as important as **who He is**...is **what He did**. He died on the cross and rose from the dead, to pay the penalty for our sins, and to purchase a place in heaven for us which He offers as a free gift.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”

~Romans 5:8-9

Being *justified* before God and being *forgiven* by God are not identical. *Justification* must always precede *forgiveness*.

Justification requires authority...*justifying* is a *legal act*...it is a *verdict*. The verdict of *justification* doesn’t *make* a person *just*...it *declares* a person *just*. It *declares* that we are *righteous*.

We are *“...justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.”*

~Romans 3:24

“There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

~Acts 4:12

III. FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS:

When we realize that we are *sinner*s and that we *can't save ourselves* we must be willing to *repent of our sin* and see that God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, *paid for our sin* and *offers us forgiveness as a free gift...grace*. We receive this gift of **grace** by **faith!**

Again, keep in mind...there is a difference between *justification* and *forgiveness*. *Justification* requires *authority...forgiveness* accepts *grace*.

Justice and **forgiveness** must be a two edged sword. We all know that *forgiveness* is not enough. Society cannot be held together if judges (or God) simply said to every murderer or rapist or sinner, *“Are you sorry for the crime that you committed?” The state forgives you...you may go!* It is one thing for a victim to have a *forgiving spirit*...but the state must not...cannot...forsake *justice*.

Grace, though, gives someone what they don't earn. If repayment is made to us for what we lost, there is no need for *forgiveness...repayment* brings a *settlement*. That's why the word *forgive* has the word **give** in it. *Forgiveness* isn't getting even...it's *giving* away all rights to get even.

That's what God does to us when we trust Christ...when we become a believer.

“...Through His name (Jesus) everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

~Acts 10:42

If we trust in Christ...God no longer holds our sins against us. *Forgiveness* cost us nothing. That's why we call it **grace**. But it cost Jesus His life. That's why we call it *justice*.

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.”

~Ephesians 1:7

How precious is the news that God does not hold our sins against us! And how beautiful is Christ...whose blood made it right for God to do this!

“For this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.”

~Matthew 26:28

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN:

- **We will all stand before God one day to face His justice.** Will you be judged based on your own merits or will you have an Advocate... Jesus Christ...who was judged on your behalf, to stand with you?
- **Everyone is a sinner and we must come to the reality that we cannot save ourselves.** We must be willing to *repent of our sin* and see that God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, *paid for our sin* and *offers us forgiveness as a free gift...grace*. We receive this gift of **grace** by **faith!**
- **Faith** is the key to heaven.