

Christology Lesson 12

THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST (2)

1. Why Did Jesus Die?

E. TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS - *Romans 3:21-26; II Cor.5:21*

- Apart from the Law: The law cannot save us, but God revealed a righteousness that would save us apart from the law. It isn't that the righteousness of God is revealed apart from the O.T, but that it is revealed apart from the principle of the law. It is apart from a legal relationship to God, based on the idea of earning and deserving merit before Him.

-God's righteousness is available to all and given to those who believe.

Romans 3:22. The righteousness of God is not ours by faith; it is ours THROUGH faith. We do not earn the righteousness by our faith. We receive righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ.

-That He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. At the cross, God demonstrated His righteousness by offering man justification (just-as-if-id never sinned or a legal verdict of guilty), while also remaining completely just because the righteous penalty of sin had been paid at the cross and the law had been satisfied.

i. "Here we learn that God designed to give the most *evident displays* of both his *justice* and *mercy*. Of his *justice*, in requiring a *sacrifice*, and absolutely refusing to give salvation to a lost world in any other way; and of his *mercy*, in *providing* THE sacrifice which his justice required."
(Clarke)

F. TO MANIFEST GOD'S LOVE TO US - *John 3:16; Rom. 5:8;1 John 3:16; 4:9-18*

-The *object* of God's Unconditional (agape) love: *For God so loved the world.* God did not wait for the world to turn to Him before He loved the world. He

loved and gave His only begotten Son to the world when it was *still* the world!

-The *recipient* of God's Love: Whoever believes in Him. God loves the world, but the world does not receive or benefit from that love until it believes in Jesus, the gift that the Father gave. Believes in means much more than intellectual awareness or agreement. It means to *trust in*, to *rely on*, and to *cling to*. It is believing the very testimony of who he is and what he has done.

-The *gift* of God's Love: God did not just have a empty compassion for mankind but a compassion that resulted in action. He *gave* his only Son in order to *give* eternal life to all who would believe.

- The *intention* of God's love: Should not perish. God's love *actually saves* man from eternal destruction. God looks at fallen humanity, does not want it to perish, and so in His love He extends the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ.

- We learn the *duration* of God's love: Everlasting life. The love we receive among people may fade or turn, but God's love will never change. He will never stop loving His people, even unto the furthest distance of eternity. "*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 136:1*

G. TO BRING US TO GOD - *Hebrews 2:9-10; I Peter 3:18; Romans 5:9-11; II Corinthians 5:18-19; Ephesians 2:14-16;*

-The need for reconciliation. We have offended God by our disobedience. Our sin is a transgression of His law. With God, there is no problem on His part at all
-Jesus died to reconcile us to God. We can be reconciled to God through the blood of the Cross. *Col 1:20*

H. TO DESTROY THE DEVIL'S POWER - *Hebrews 2:14-15*

- The power of death. The devil is a destroyer. Everything he entices us with, as attractive as it may be, will destroy your life.

- Release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage: The fear of death rules as a tyrant over humanity. Some try to make peace with death by calling it their friend. But Christians have no fear of death (though perhaps a fear of *dying*), not because death is their friend, but because it is a defeated enemy who now serves God's purpose in the believer's life.

I. TO BE A MERCIFUL AND FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST - *Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16*

- A human representative of a nation before Jehova.

- Made like His brethren: If Jesus were not like us, He could not be our High Priest, representing us before the Father and making atonement (propitiation) for our sins.

i. Neither the Deity nor the Humanity of Jesus are negotiable. If we diminish either and He is unable to save us.

J. TO BEAR OUR SINS - *Hebrews 9:28; 1 Peter 2:24*

- Christ died once: This principle of sacrifice explains why the suffering of hell *must* be eternal for those who reject the atoning work of Jesus. They are in hell to pay the penalty of their sin, but as imperfect beings they are unable to make a perfect payment. If the payment is not perfect, then it has to be *continual* and *constant* - indeed, for all eternity. A soul could be released from hell the moment its debt of sin was completely paid - which is another way of saying *never*.

-Jesus is our final scapegoat: In the O.T. the high priest would lay hands on the second goat which was allowed to live, and he would confess the sins of the people putting them on the head of the goat. The goat would then bear the blame for all the transgressions of the people and would be set free into the wilderness, where God would remember their sins no more. The goat became known as the scapegoat. *Leviticus 16*.

K. TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS - *John 1:29; Hebrews 9:26; 10:4, 10-12; 1 John 3:5*

-The word "atonement" is *kaphir* in Hebrew, which means "to cover". All the lambs that were killed in the past covered sin but the sin was still there, but Jesus Christ took sin away.

L. TO FORGIVE US OF OUR SINS - *Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; 2:13 1 John 1:9*

-Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. *Heb 9:22*

M. TO GIVE US ETERNAL LIFE - *John 3:14-16; 10:10, 27-29; 1 John 5:6-13*

- a *bronze* serpent does speak of sin, but of sin judged. In the same way Jesus, who knew no sin became sin for us on the cross, and our sin was judged in Him. A bronze serpent is a picture of sin judged and dealt with

- In the *Numbers 21:4-9* account, the people were saved not by *doing* anything, but by simply *looking* to the bronze serpent. They had to trust that something as seemingly foolish as looking at such a thing would be sufficient to save them, and surely, some perished because they thought it too foolish to do such a thing.