

Week 8 | Jesus

Why did Jesus have to die?

Why did Jesus have to die? The answer to that question has eternal implications. The answer is the result of the l_____ and j_____ of God. The most famous verse in the Bible reminds us that *“God so loved the world that, that he gave his only Son”*.

But why did God have to give His Son over to death? Because of His Justice. God said the punishment for sin would be _____.

God said what the consequences of sin would be all the way back in the Garden...

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'" Genesis 2:15-17

Paul goes on to share the tragic implications of the sinful choice made in the Garden of Eden, for all of mankind. In Romans 3:23 he said, *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"* and the result of that in Romans 6:23a, *"For the wages of sin is death"*.

That's some really bad news. But the good news is found in the rest of Romans 6:23b, *"but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Jesus died the death _____! He died in our place, also known as the Atonement. Atonement means “paying the price for an offense or injury”.

Jesus paid the price to justify a holy and righteous God. Hebrews 9:22 says, *"Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins."*

The blood of Jesus r_____ us. It set us free from the punishment of sin and entered us into a new relationship with God.

We went from “children of w_____” (Ephesians 2:3) to “children of _____” (Galatians 3:26).

Apostle Paul put it this way in Romans 8:1-2: *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”*

Jesus’ death (and resurrection) set us free. His death brought us life. Life with God. We are no longer condemned as sinners before a righteous Judge, we are now the beloved children of the Heavenly Father.



Whole Group Discussion

When and how did you discover the Gospel in your life?

How do you take time to regularly remember what Christ did on your behalf?

Why do you think the Bible says that the cross is offensive to people?

John Calvin, one of the most influential church leader and scholar during the Protestant Reformation, called this greatest act of Jesus, dying on our behalf as the “wondrous exchange”. In his classic work, “Institutes of the Christian Religion”, he wrote...

“This is the wondrous exchange made by his boundless goodness. Having become with us the Son of Man, he has made us with himself sons of God. By his own descent to the earth he has prepared our ascent to heaven. Having received our mortality, he has bestowed on us his immortality. Having undertaken our weakness, he has made us strong in his strength. Having submitted to our poverty, he has transferred to us his riches. Having taken upon himself the burden of unrighteousness with which we were oppressed, he has clothed us with his righteousness.”

This is the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Understanding and embracing this is the different between _____ and _____, heaven and hell.

How should we respond to the “wondrous exchange”? #1 Be s_____ you’ve made the exchange. #2 L_____ like you’ve made the exchange. #3 C_____ the exchange.

Ephesians 2:8-9 makes it clear that being good doesn’t cut it. It says, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

Paul goes on to say in Romans 10 that If we believe Jesus died and rose again, and _____ with our mouths that He is Lord then we will be _____. Make sure you have placed your faith in Jesus’ work (His death and resurrection), not your own.

We should daily “_____ the _____” to ourselves. Reminding ourselves that it’s Christ’s death and resurrection that saves us will keep us humble, loving, gracious and free of self-righteous pride.

We need to “preach the gospel” to _____. Why wouldn’t we want others to know that they can experience the wondrous exchange.

The death of Jesus should overwhelm us, in a good way. In a life-changing way.

John Stott quote from “The Message of Galatians”...

"Every time we look at the cross Christ seems to be saying to us, 'I am here because of you. It is your sin I am bearing, your curse I am suffering, your debt I am paying, your death I am dying.' Nothing in history or in the universe cuts us down to size like the cross. All of us have inflated views of ourselves...until we have visited a place called Calvary. It is there at the foot of the cross, that we shrink to our true size."



Small Group Discussion

So if you were talking to someone who wasn't a follower of Jesus, how would you describe what Jesus did for us, why He had to do it, and how we must respond to it?

Can you think of some other verses of Scripture, not mentioned in this session, that describes Jesus' death? Take time to share them and what they mean for you.



Prayer Focus

Who is someone in your life that is not a follower of Christ? Take some time praying for an opportunity to share the gospel with them.