

Lesson 5 Christ – Part 2: His Death & Salvation

Christianity is a message of rescue. God has taken the initiative in Jesus Christ to rescue us from our sins.

- *“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name **Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins.” (Matt. 1:21) The name Jesus means, “God is salvation”.*
- *“For the **Son of Man** came **to seek and to save the lost**.” (Luke 19:10)*
- *The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world **to save sinners**, of whom I am the foremost. (1 Tim. 1:15)*
- *And we have seen and testify that **the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world**. (1 John 4:14)*

Sin has three principle consequences:

1. Bondage
2. Death
3. Enmity

Salvation in Christ has liberated us from each of these consequences:

1. In Christ we are set free from our bondage to sin, self, and the evil one.
2. In Christ we have been delivered from death to life.
3. In Christ we have been delivered from enmity against God to become adopted sons & daughters of God (Sonship)

The Gospel is a message of reconciliation with God:

- *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but **in order that the world might be saved through him**. (John 3:16-17)*
- *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and **through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross**. (Col. 1:19-20)*

Atonement – “At-one-ment”

- Sin caused a separation between us and God, the cross of Christ brought us back together.
- Sin made us enemies of God, the cross of Christ brought us peace with God.
- Sin broke our relationship with God, the cross of Christ restored it.

Why was the cross necessary for our salvation? Is the cross vital to Christianity? What did the cross achieve?

The Old Testament religion was sacrificial:

- *...and Abel also **brought of the firstborn of his flock** and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering,...(Gen. 4:4)*
- *For **the life of the flesh is in the blood**, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for **it is the blood that makes atonement by the life**. (Lev. 17:11)*
- *Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and **without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins**. (Heb. 9:22)*
- *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was **crushed for our iniquities**; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – every one – to his own way; and **the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all**. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; **like a lamb that is led to the slaughter**, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. (Isaiah 53:5-7)*

The turning point in Jesus' ministry comes immediately after Simon Peter confessed him to be the Christ (one anointed by God).

- *Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that **the Christ should suffer** and on the third day rise from the dead,..." (Luke 24:45-46)*
- *And he began to teach them that **the Son of Man must suffer many things** and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes **and be killed**, and after three days **rise again**. (Mark 8:31)*
- *I have a baptism to be baptized with, and **how great is my distress** until it is accomplished! (Luke 12:50)*
- *"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But **for this purpose I have come** to this hour. Father, **glorify your name**." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." (John 12:27-28)*
- *When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,..." (John 17:1)*
- *So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink **the cup that the Father has given me**?" (John 18:11)*
- *Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should **the Scriptures be fulfilled that it must be so**?" (Matt. 26:53-54)*

Paul never grew tired of writing about the meaning of the cross of Christ:

- *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and **gave himself for me**. (Gal. 2:20)*
- *But far be it from me **to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Gal. 6:14)*
- *For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but **we preach Christ crucified**, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God**. (I Cor. 1:22-24)*
- *For I decided to know nothing among you except **Jesus Christ and him crucified**. (I Cor. 2:2)*
- *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures**, (I Cor. 15:3)*

Christianity collapses without the cross. But, why? What does it mean?

Christ died as our sin bearer

- *"If anyone sins, doing any of the things that by the Lord's commandments ought not to be done, **though he did not know it**, then realizes his guilt, he shall **bear his iniquity**." (Lev. 5:17)*
- *And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And **he shall put them on the head of the goat** and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. The goat shall **bear all their iniquities** on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness. (Lev. 16:21-22)*
- *For since **the law has but a shadow of the good things to come** instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But **in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year**. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goat to take away sins. (Heb. 10:1-4)*

What the blood of bulls and goats could not do, Jesus did by his sacrifice on the cross.

- *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (II Cor. 5:21)*

- *He has no need to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sin and then for those of the people, since **he did this once for all when he offered up himself**. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but **the word of the oath**, which came later than the law, appoints **a Son who has been made perfect forever**. (Heb. 7:27-28)*

Jesus cries out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46b, Ps. 22:1a) If this cry is taken at face value, because Jesus was quoting Ps. 22, a messianic psalm, he must have believed that he was fulfilling it.

When Peter and the other apostles were brought before the counsel and charged not to teach in the name of Jesus, Peter responded, “We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed **by hanging him on a tree**.” (Acts 5:29-30). The Jewish audience hearing those words would have no doubt been reminded of Deut. 21:23, “**anyone who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse**.” And this Jewish audience would also have been familiar with Deut. 27:26, “**Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.**” And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’

Paul explains what Peter was implying when he writes, “Christ redeemed us from **the curse of the law** (Deut. 27:26) by **becoming a curse for us** (Deut. 21:23) – for it is written, “**Cursed is everyone who is hanged “on a tree”** (Gal. 3:13)

The curse that rests on those who break God’s law (a justified curse) was transferred to Jesus on the cross (cursed as their substitute).

Peter’s epistle has at least four that directly coincide with Isaiah 53.

I Peter 2	Isaiah 53
<i>He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.</i>	<i>He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.</i>
<i>They hurled their insults at him.</i>	<i>He was despised and rejected by others.</i>
<i>He himself bore our sins.</i>	<i>He bore the sins of many</i>
<i>By his wounds you have been healed</i>	<i>By his wounds we are healed.</i>
<i>You were like sheep going astray.</i>	<i>We all like sheep have gone astray.</i>

Peter and Paul both view Jesus’ sacrifice as the ultimate fulfillment of the Passover sacrifice at the time of the Old Testament Exodus.

- *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and **for sprinkling with his blood**: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (I Peter 1:1-2)*
- *...knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with **the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot**. (I Peter 1:18-19)*
- *Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. **For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed**. (I Cor. 5:7-8)*

What is the meaning of salvation? What has Jesus sacrifice on the cross actually accomplished for anyone who believes?

What is the Spirit’s role in the people of God?

The work of Jesus on the cross justifies us before God, and the work of the Spirit in us sanctifies us. Jesus work on the cross has delivered us from the penalty of sin, the Spirit’s work in us delivers us from the power of sin, and one day, in glory, we will be delivered from the very presence of sin.

- *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God” (Jn. 3:3)*
- *Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (Jn. 3:5)*
- *“The wind blows, where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (Jn. 3:8)*
- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Cor. 5:17)*

Jesus ascension brought about the sending of His Spirit.

- *Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But **if I go, I will send him to you.** (Jn. 16:7)*

The Father sends the Spirit to dwell with His people forever.

- *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (Jn. 14:15-17)*

To have been redeemed by Christ is to have the Spirit.

- *You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (Rom. 8:9)*

To have the Spirit is to be being transformed into the image of Christ.

- *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed** into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For **this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.** (2 Cor. 3:18)*

The old nature remains, producing it's 'fruit', and is to be put to death.

- *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal. 5:19-21)*

The new creation is to be lived out in the power of the Spirit, producing His 'fruit'.

- *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such thing there is no law. (Gal. 5:22-23)*