

Read Hebrews 9:26b-28

But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

- What do we learn from these verses about the purpose of Jesus' first and second comings?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- How did God make Him who had no sin to be sin?
- How does it make you feel that God won't count your sin against you because of Jesus?

Read 1 Timothy 2:3-6

³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

- How is Jesus the mediator between us and God?

Read Luke 9:23

²³ Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

- How are Jesus' disciples to take up their cross daily?

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Seeking God

Searching for truth and meaning in the Bible

Study #7: The Cross - God's Remedy For Sin

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- Why does the cross have two different effects on people?
- How is the cross the power of God?

What Jesus Said about the Cross

Read Matthew 16:21

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

- What do we learn about what Jesus knew about his future death and resurrection?

Read Matthew 20:28

²⁸ "...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- What was Jesus' understanding about the purpose of His life?
- What is the meaning and significance of His life being a ransom?

Read John 10:11, 17-18

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.

- What do these verses say about how Jesus viewed His future death on the cross?
- How does it affect you that Jesus had so much control over what was going to happen to Him?

What the Cross Accomplished

Read Colossians 1:19-23

¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. ²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation - ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.

- What was it that caused us to be alienated from God?
- How is it that we have been reconciled to God?
- What contingency is this reconciliation dependent upon?

Read 1 John 2:2

² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

- What does it mean that Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins?

Read 1 Peter 2:24

²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

- How did Jesus bear our sins in his body on the cross?

Read Hebrews 9:11-12

¹¹ But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

- What is the significance of blood in regard to redemption?