

Why Christ Died

Ephesians 2:1-10

Why Christ Died

- Over 300 prophecies about Jesus. cf. Isaiah 53; Psalms 22
- About 16 fulfilled in 24 hours surrounding His death.
- Why?
 - Human wisdom cannot answer. 1 Corinthians 1:18-24
 - Was not an accident. Ephesians 3:11
 - Foreshadowed in OT sacrifices. Hebrews 9:22-23; 10:1-4
 - Jesus went to the cross willingly. John 10:17-18

Why Christ Died

GOD GAVE MAN LAW. Romans 4:15; 5:13-14

- **How can man be justified by law?**
 - A pure system of law demands perfect obedience. cf. Romans 7:9-10; 10:5; Galatians 3:10-11, "*For as many as are of the works of the law are under a curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one who continueth not in all things that are written in the book of the law, to do them. Now that no man is justified by the law before God, is evident: for, The righteous shall live by faith*" (NOTE: 3:21)
 - The only way one can be justified by the law is by perfect law keeping. James 2:10, "*For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one (point), he is guilty of all.*"

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GOD GAVE MAN LAW. Romans 4:15; 5:13-14

- YET: Romans 3:23, "*for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God*"
- **Consequence of violating God's law.**
 - Isaiah 59:1-2, "*Behold, Jehovah's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, so that he will not hear.*"
 - Note: Romans 5:12; 6:23; 1:18; 7:7-11

Why Christ Died

What could man do when he broke the Law?

1. He could accept the penalty.
 2. God's law provided for animal sacrifices to be offered.
 - However, these animal sacrifices (though they were for the forgiveness of sins – Leviticus 4-5) were offered in type or shadow and did not perfect man in forgiveness (Hebrews 10:1-4).
- Man's sin and resulting death could not be completely atoned for by the death of an animal. It took the death of man (cf. Ezekiel 18:20). Man sinned, Man had to die.

Why Christ Died

What did God do? He Gave His Son.

WHY? Romans 5:6ff; John 3:16; John 15:13

- Jesus came in the flesh. John 1:14; Philippians 2:5; 1 John 4:1-3
- Jesus perfectly kept the law. Hebrews 4:14-15; 7:26-27; 1 Peter 2:21-22
 - To become the perfect sacrifice. 1 Peter 1:18-19
- Jesus died to pay the debt of sin. 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21; cf. Isaiah 53:4
 - Matthew 20:28, "... the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many"

Why Christ Died

What did Christ's death accomplish?

1. **Justice.** God's law was upheld. Romans 3:24-26; 6:23
- Jesus took our sentence of death and paid it for us. Hebrews 2:9, "*But we behold him who hath been made a little lower than the angels, (even) Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God he should taste of death for every (man).*" cf. 2 Corinthians 5:14
- If we reject Jesus, we reject salvation. That is just! Mark 16:15-16; John 8:24

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What did Christ's death accomplish?

2. **Justification.** Provision was made for man's forgiveness. Romans 3:24-26; 6:23; (cf. Hebrews 2:9,14,17; Romans 5:8-11, 19)
- Through Christ's death the life, justification, salvation that man did not earn by perfect obedience to law, comes as a "gift" (Romans 6:23) through God's grace "in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1-4; Romans 7:10)
- What happens now when I sin? I don't have to stay under that condemnation. (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
 - "Washed ... Justified ... Sanctified"
 - **No Other Way. John 14:6**

Why Christ Died

HOW DOES MAN BENEFIT FROM THE DEATH OF CHRIST?

- To benefit from His blood I must be in His body. cf. 1 Corinthians 12:13ff; Romans 6:3-4, 16-18, 20-22
- Baptized into HIS body. Galatians 3:26-27

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CONCLUSION:

- We are under the law of Christ today. 1 Corinthians 9:27
- We are not under a system of commands only that condemns the violator with no means of forgiveness, but under a system of God's grace / favor where we can escape death even though we have sinned. Romans 6:12-18
 - God desires all to be saved. 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9
 - 1 Timothy 1:15, "*Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief*"

Why Christ Died

• So that you can LIVE!

2 Corinthians 5:14-15, "*For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that one died for all, therefore all died; and he died for all, that they that live should no longer live unto themselves, but unto him who for their sakes died and rose again.*"

Galatians 2:19-20, "*For I through the law died unto the law, that I might live unto God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ living in me: and that (life) which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, (the faith) which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.*"