

The Power of The Cross

“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. 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... but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power** of God and the **wisdom** of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.” 1 Corinthians 1:17-18; 24-25

The Gospel is not just a _____ of salvation but it is also the very power of salvation.

I. Introduction

A. Crucifixion

1. Death by the most _____ and _____ means human beings could develop.
2. Usual death on the cross was by exhaustion, exsanguination, and suffocation.
3. <https://www.cmda.org/resources/publication/the-suffering-and-death-of-christ>

B. Who killed Jesus?

1. Not the Jews
2. Not the Romans
3. He willingly chose to go to cross and willingly gave up His own life.
4. John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that **He gave** His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

5. Luke 22:39-44

"Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; **yet not my will, but yours be done.**" An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground."

6. Jesus chose to die on the cross!

a. Luke 23:44-46

"It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last."

b. He _____ His work, _____ it finished and _____ to give up His spirit.

C. Do you realize Jesus made this choice before he made the world?

1. _____ refers to Jesus as "the lamb slain from the foundation of the earth."
2. Jesus was willing to die to save you before He even made you!

D. The cross is not really about a mean, wrathful, vengeful God...it is about a _____ and Holy God.

1. God loves us but his righteousness and holiness demands that our sin be dealt with.
2. It is not the _____ of God that saves us or deals with our sin. It was the _____ of Jesus.

II. The First Sacrifice— Have you every thought about Genesis 3 as the start of the sacrificial system?

A. Adam and Eve had _____ when that ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

B. They realized they were naked—> _____

C. So, they sewed fig leaves together—> _____

D. Genesis 3:21 “The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”

1. That word 'skin' means 'the hide of an animal'.
2. God killed an animal to provide covering for their nakedness....to cover the shame that came from their sin.

III. Four Old Testament Blood Sacrifices

A. _____

1. Made atonement for an individual sin when they sinned unintentionally
2. The effect was the forgiveness of the sin.
3. Occurred on several unique occasions
 - a. the consecration of the priests
 - b. regular monthly intervals,
 - c. at various feasts
 - d. especially on the annual Day of Atonement— when priest entered the Holy of Holies

B. _____

1. The trespass offering was an atoning sacrifice for a special offense against the lord
2. The sin offering dealt with the guilt but their was still restitution to be made.
 - a. If the sin was against a person, they could be repaid
 - b. The trespass offering repaid the Lord

C. _____

1. Done every morning and evening
2. Not atonement for sin but done as an act of worship and dedication to the lord
3. Expression of devotion, commitment and complete surrender to God
4. Lev 1:9 said the aroma of the burnt offering was pleasing to God.

- D. _____
1. Voluntary act of worship, fellowship, thanksgiving
 2. Was the only offering where the offerer would eat part of the offering.
 3. Emphasized that the people had the opportunity for close communion with the Lord
 4. Luke 22:1-23 (last supper) where Jesus says the bread is His body and the wine is His blood.

IV. Why were the OT sacrifices not enough?

A. "The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God." Hebrews 7:18

B. The old testament sacrifices had to be repeated. The Day of Atonement served as an annual reminder of the sins of the people (Hebrews 10:3).

1. Hebrews 9:9 "...sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper."
2. Hebrews 9:10 "external regulation"
3. Hebrews 10:4 "It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to away sins."
4. The imperfect sacrifice provided a covering for the persons sin and resulted in forgiveness by God, however the sacrifice failed in the fact that it did nothing to redeem the soul of the person who offered it.

5. Old Testament- _____, _____, _____, _____

C. "But when this priest (Jesus) had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy." Hebrews 12:12-14

1. Jesus lives forever and makes intercession on our behalf from His seat at the right hand of the Father.
2. Jesus offered a perfect, sinless sacrifice that was His life....His blood (Hebrews 9:12)
3. His sacrifice is able to cleanse the conscience (9:14) and wrote on our minds and hearts (Hebrews 8:10)
4. New Testament- _____, _____, _____, _____

V. Jesus was the perfect fulfillment of the OT Sacrificial System.

A. "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 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." Colossians 1:20

B. "God made him who had no sin to be a sin offering for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21

C. "For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:3-4

D. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness...we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 1:9-2:22

VI. Bought with Blood: the Divine Exchange at the Cross by: Derek Prince

A. What happened on the cross was a fact of history, but its significance transcends time.

1. All the evil due by justice to us came on Jesus, that all the good due to Jesus, because of His sinless obedience, might be made available to us.

2. What Jesus did for me on the cross contained all I would ever need for time and eternity— physically, spiritually, materially, emotionally.

3. The evil that was rightly due to us was placed on Jesus so that the good that was rightly due to Jesus was given to us.

B. Derek discuss 9 Exchanges

1. Righteous Jesus was made a sin offering for our sinfulness, that we might be made righteous with His righteousness.

2. Jesus was _____ that we might be _____.

3. Jesus was _____ that we might be _____.

4. Jesus died _____ that we might share _____.

5. Every _____ that might have come on us came on Jesus instead, that all the _____ due Him might be made available to us.

6. Jesus endured _____ that we might share _____.

7. Jesus endured _____ that we, in turn, might share _____.

8. Jesus endured _____ that we might have _____.

9. My old man was crucified in Him that the new man might come to life in me.

A. Execution is God's solution to our rebellion

B. Galatians 2: 19– 20 "I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

C. Galatians 5: 24: Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

D. We have been saved _____ our sins / death and _____ life in Christ....and, by the way, that life does not just start when we die!

VII. Communion

A. _____

B. _____