

The Cross

Introduction

Who killed Jesus?

Not the Jews
No the Romans

He willingly chose to go to cross and willingly gave up His own life.

Do you realize Jesus made this choice before he made the world? Revelation 13:8 refers to Jesus as “the lamb slain from the foundation of the earth.”

Jesus was willing to die to save you before He even made you!

Usual death on the cross was by exhaustion, exsanguination, and suffocation.

Jesus chose to die on the cross...literally! He completed His work, declared it finished and chose to give up His spirit.

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

It is not the love of God that saves us or deals with our sin. It was the righteousness of Jesus.

Jesus did not come to condemn to but to save.

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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. (John 3:16-18 NIV)

In order to save, He had a cup to drink.....

What is the role of the cup in Calvary?

Psalm 75:8 "In the hand of the Lord is a cup full of foaming wine mixed with spices; he pours it out, and all the wicked of the earth drink it down to its very dregs."

Jeremiah 25:15-16

"..This cup (is) filled with the wine of God's wrath...When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword (death) I will send among them."

Rev 14:9-11

Those who worship the beast " will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those.."

The worst part of it all, I believe, was the break in relationship with God the Father.

The cup held all the wrath and fury that was due to those who sinned against a righteous God. It was the burning lava of God's holiness against sin.

He took on the undiluted wrath of God against the sins of God's people...He drank the cup that was intended for you and for me.

The First Sacrifice

Have you every thought about Genesis 3 this way...might it be that this is where it started?

Adam and Eve had eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

They sinned = they missed the mark

They realized they were naked—> shame

So, they sewed fig leaves together—> works of man

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

That word skin means the hide of an animal.

God killed an animal to provide covering for their nakedness....to cover the shame that came from their sin.

Four Old Testament Blood Sacrifices (There is also a grain offering)

1. Sin offering or purification offering

made atonement for an individual sin when they sinned unintentionally
the effect was the forgiveness of the sin

occurred on several unique occasions (the consecration of the priests), regular monthly intervals, at various feast and especially on the annual Day of Atonement— when priest entered the Holy of Holies

2. Guilt offering or Trespass Offering

The trespass offering was an atoning sacrifice for a special offense against the lord. The sin offering dealt with the guilt but there was still restitution to be made. if the sin was against a person, they could be repaid. The trespass offering repaid the lord.

3. burnt offering

Done every morning and evening

Not atonement for sin but done as an act of worship and dedication to the lord

Expression of devotion, commitment and complete surrender to God

Lev 1:9 said the aroma of the burnt offering was pleasing to God.

4. Fellowship offering or Peace Offering

voluntary act of worship, fellowship, thanksgiving

Was the only offering where the offerer would eat part of the offering.

Emphasized that the people had the opportunity for close communion with the Lord

Luke 22:1-23 (last supper) where Jesus says the bread is His body and the wine is His blood.

Why were the OT sacrifices not enough?

“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

OT- law, outside temporary, written on stone
NT- Christ, inside, eternal, written on the heart

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).

Hebrews 9:9 “...sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper.”

Hebrews 9:10 “external regulation”

Hebrews 10:4 “It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to away sins.”

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.

Jesus lives forever and makes intercession on our behalf from His seat at the right hand of the Father.

Jesus offered a perfect, sinless sacrifice that was His life....His blood (Hebrews 9:12)

His sacrifice is able to cleanse the conscience (9:14) and wrote on our minds and hearts (Hebrews 8:10)

“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

Jesus was the perfect fulfillment of the OT Sacrificial System.

“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

“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

“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

“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

Bought with Blood: the Divine Exchange at the Cross Derek Prince

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

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

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 Peter 1:3 “His divine power has given everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”

Philippians 4:19 “And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Hebrews 10: 14: “By one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”

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.

Derek discuss 9 Exchanges

1 and 2 covered in more detail already

1. sin offering righteous

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

2. punished forgiven

Jesus was punished that we might be forgiven.

3. Jesus was wounded physically that we might be healed physically.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:5

4. Jesus died our death that we might share His life.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 6: 23

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

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit." Galatians 3: 13-14

6. Jesus endured our poverty that we might share His abundance.

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." 2 Corinthians 8: 9

7. Jesus endured our shame that we, in turn, might share His glory.

"In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered." Hebrews 2:10

Hebrews 12:2

"Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

8. Jesus endured our rejection that we might have His acceptance.

Matthew 27:45-47 “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

”Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain (the veil), that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings...” Hebrews 10:19-22a

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

“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” Romans 6: 6–11

Take up your cross

“Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.” Luke 9:23-24

“And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:27

Willing to suffer and die for the Lord’s sake

To a person in the first-century, the cross meant one thing and one thing only: death by the most painful and humiliating means human beings could develop.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53: 6

“There is our root problem: our rebellion against God. There is a rebel who resides inside every one of us. He may be a Communist rebel, an alcoholic rebel, even a nice religious rebel, but he is still a rebel. God has only one remedy for the rebel. He does not send him to Sunday school or church, or teach him the Golden Rule, or even tell him to memorize Scripture. He executes him. Execution is God’s solution. But the message of mercy is that the execution took place in Jesus on the cross. According to Romans 6: 6– 7: Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.”

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.”

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

Galatians 6:14

“forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Conclusion

Christ knew that we would have to drink that cup if He did not drink it for us. So He did!

He drank the entire cup for me, for you, for all of humanity!

Then the cup, being empty, may be smashed at the foot of the cross. For that cup no longer exists for the people of God. That cup cannot be refilled. It is not only empty, it is broken at the foot of the cross!

Our death and the curse were in that cup... "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:1

"Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." John 19:8-30

Psalm 116:13 "cup of salvation"

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves," Colossians 1:13

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