

2 Why Christ Died



Bible Studies

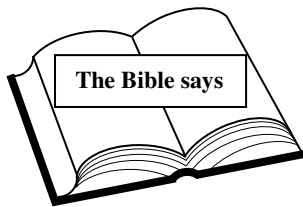
Introduction

In our last study: Christology, we established the Lord Jesus Christ is both God and man. He is our Lord and Saviour and we are to worship and serve Him continually according to knowledge that comes to us by revelation. It should be natural for us in the light of who Jesus is, to consider now "Why Christ Died."

In this Study

We will look at the condition of fallen man and why it became necessary for Jesus to be born, die on Calvary, rise again to ascend to heaven from where His journey began.

God's Creation of Man:



Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

:27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

:8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

God's Creation of Woman:

Gen 2:20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a help meet for him.

:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Gen 5:1 This *is* the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

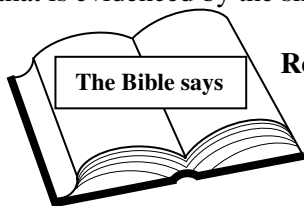
Explanation:

God created man from the dust of the earth, then breathed into him the breath of life, from the man He made the woman and together they lived in harmony and fellowship with God as an expression of God's likeness and image of all that God is while exercising dominion over God's creation.

Why Christ Died

The fall of Man:

Genesis chapter three gives us the historical account of this tragic rebellion and fall from grace of our forefather and mother that plunged the whole of mankind into the condition of sin and separation from God that is evidenced by the sin of the world and consequent death upon all born into it..



Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

What Has Happened?

When Adam sinned, he sold himself and the whole of the unborn race out to Satan, for the seed of the unborn human race was in Adam. Death, the penalty of sin passed upon every following generation.

The Condition of Mankind

It is a Condition of Universal Sin:

The expression “universal sin” is comprehended when we consider the whole of creation as one and consisting of the same inherent condition. Note the following Scriptures:

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

:13 Their throat *is* an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips:

:14 Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness:

:15 Their feet *are* swift to shed blood:

:16 Destruction and misery *are* in their ways:

:17 And the way of peace have they not known:

:18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

None can deny it:

Many would try to deny the existence of sin and is usually associated with the denial of God this is because to acknowledge sin suggests accountability to God as someone judging sin. It is interesting to note that those who deny sin do not deny the existence of crime. There is no difference between sin and crime. Sin is committed crimes against God and crime is committed sins against our fellow man (society).

John said:

1John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Isaiah said:

Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

:7 And *there is* none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

There is a price to pay for our sin:

Like the workman in the field, in the quarry or the mill there is the reward of their labour. So with sin: sin is something we labour under and if we do not allow the saving grace of Christ to neutralize the power of sin, sin in us will be rewarded. On the other hand by accepting Christ we will be rewarded for our faith. Paul said:

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

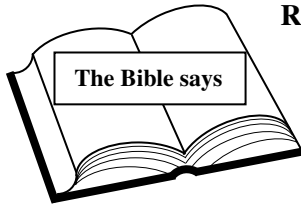
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Conclusion:

Every one of us is born into sin; we have the nature of sin and as such are without God, hopelessly lost, and without ability to help ourselves. Redemption is not and cannot be of ourselves or of anyone like unto us. Our position is such that someone apart from anyone born of Adam had to come with the ability to redeem us; but who? And should there be someone, where would He come from? And how could He do it?

Why God Created Man

God's purpose in creating man is unchanged.



Rev 4:10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,
:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

There is Hope

God created man that He might find pleasure with man through fellowship; regardless of mans sin His lofty purpose in our creation is unchanged.

The Lord Has obligated Himself to Provide Mans Redemption

Gen 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The Lord is not obligated to save anyone, but He, by the prophetic promise in the above verse has obligated Himself to provide a Saviour Who was to be born (has been) of a woman and ultimately bruise (break) the head of the serpent (Satan), thus destroying the serpents power of influence over God's creation. John in his Epistle in understanding of God's promise wrote:

1John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

What was God to do To bring About the Promise?



Mans position:

- Man is in a condition of sin, under the sentence of death, unable to help himself, unable to redeem himself.
- The purpose of God in creating man is unchanged but how was man's sin condition to be dealt with to bring about reconciliation?
- Man sinned and only man could redeem man from sin. But what man? For every man in Adam's race would be born with sin, and shaped in iniquity, and under the penalty of death

It is the condition of mans sin that made the First Coming of Jesus Christ a necessity.

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God's position:

The only one who could redeem man was God, but God could not redeem man as God only. It meant that God would have to become a man, because it was man who sinned and it was man who had to die (Genesis 2v17). God cannot die for He is life and the source of life. So God had to become incarnate and born into the human race taking upon Himself the form of a man in order to redeem man.

This is the very necessity of the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus.

The Birth of Jesus

Matt 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

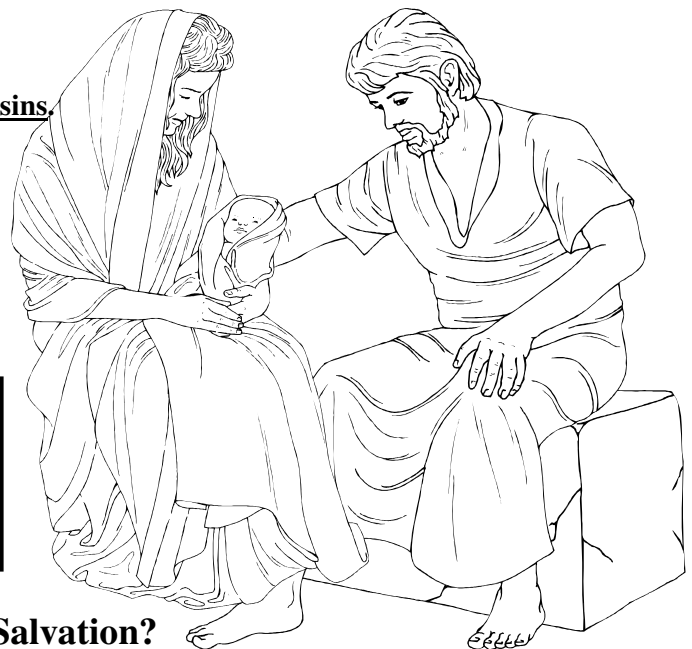
:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

A key verse:

:21 And thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins.

Consider now:

:23 Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is: God with us



Conclusion:

God became a man to save those that believe on Him from their sin.

How was Jesus to accomplish Mans Salvation?

John the Baptist Introduces Jesus to the World:

John 1v29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

This introduction of Jesus occurred at the River Jordan thirty years after His birth

Jesus Knew He had Come to Die

The Jews in unbelief of Jesus seek a sign of Him. Jesus gives them answer; but not the answer they expected, but an answer that needed interpreting:

John 2:18 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign showest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

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- :20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?**
- :21 But he spake of the temple of his body.**
- :22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.**

On another occasion the Jews, when in dialogue with Jesus sought again a sign and again He answers with words that need interpreting to understand:

- Matt 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.**
- :39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah:**
- :40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

Jesus faced with the blatant unbelief of the Jews, their blasphemy, denial of His identity and attributing of His power to the devil takes the opportunity to warn them of the consequences of their deeds should they continue in their unbelief:

- Matt 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a greater than Jonah is here.**
- :42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.**
- :43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.**
- :44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.**
- :45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.**

Jesus knowing all things and that He came from the Father and would be betrayed and slain of men, knew that He would rise from the dead, He said unto His disciples:

- John 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.**
- :18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.**

Jesus Stands on Trial

Before the Sanhedrin:

Before the high priest and other members of the Jewish council called the Sanhedrin, the Jews had to resort to the testimony of lying witnesses to condemn Jesus. They in fact could find no fault in Him

- Matt 26:59 Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;**
- :60 But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,**
- :61 And said, this *fellow* said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.**
- :62 And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?**
- :63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.**
- :64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.**
- :65 Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.**
- :66 What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.**

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Before Pontius Pilate:



John 18:38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

John 19:4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.

John 19:6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify *him*, crucify *him*. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye *him*, and crucify *him*: for I find no fault in him.

Before Herod:

Luke 23:6 When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean.

:7 And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.

:8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long *season*, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.

:9 Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.

:10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.

:11 And Herod with his men of war set him at naught, and mocked *him*, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.

Pilate testifies on the return of Jesus from Herod that neither he nor Herod found fault in Jesus.

Luke 23:15 No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.

Before the people:

Pontius Pilate wishing to let Jesus go free yet wanting to please the Jews turned to the people; a crowd assembled and stirred up by the unbelieving Jews for a final decision in what amounted to a kangaroo court. This amazing, but evil development is recorded for us in Mark's Gospel:

Mark 15:6 Now at *that* feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired.

:7 And there was *one* named Barabbas, *which lay* bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection.

:8 And the multitude crying aloud began to desire *him to do* as he had ever done unto them.

:9 But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?

:10 For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy.

:11 But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them.

:12 And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do *unto him* whom ye call the King of the Jews?

:13 And they cried out again, Crucify him.

:14 Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him.

:15 And *so* Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged *him*, to be crucified.

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The Verdict Was a Miscarriage of Justice:

Jesus stood trial before four courts, He was found not guilty before all four, yet was condemned and sentenced to suffer the penalty of death.

And They Crucified Him

For a clear understanding the Bible student should read each account of the crucifixion of Jesus in the four Gospels.

Matthew 26 and 27

Mark 14 and 15

Luke 22 and 23

John 18 and 19



And They Buried Him

Matt 27:57 When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple:

:58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

:59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

:60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher, and departed.

Unbelieving Jewry not content to have Jesus dead and buried again approach Pilate requesting the Roman seal be placed upon the stone sealing the entrance:

Matt 27:62 Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

:63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

:64 Command therefore that the sepulcher be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

:65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make *it* as sure as ye can.

:66 So they went, and made the sepulcher sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

- The body of Jesus was wrapped in a clean linen cloth
- Laid in a tomb hewn out in the rock
- A great stone sealed the entrance
- The Roman seal issued by Pilate was upon the stone sealing the entrance.
- A watch of soldiers are given of Pilate to stand guard over the tomb.
- No one could get in, no one could get out, and no one could steal the body.
- For the only time in history: God, Satan and man agreed on something: The crucifixion of Jesus. Yes all three wanted Jesus dead???

Satan: wanted Jesus dead for he saw Him as the one promised from the foundation of the world who would destroy him and eventually have him cast into the lake of fire (Gen 3:15; Rev 20:10. Note: 1Cor 2:7-8).

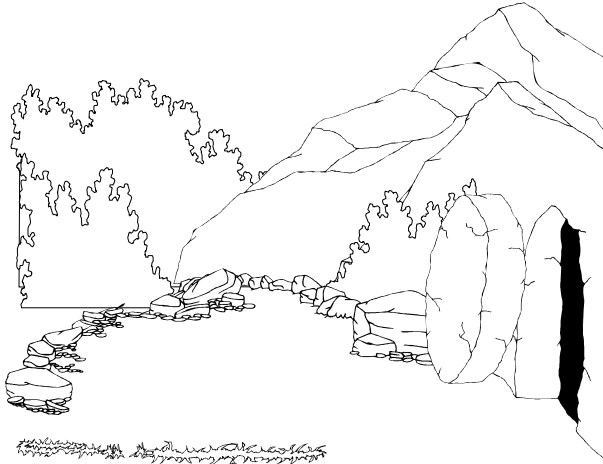
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Man: wanted Jesus dead for His presence stirred their sin nature so as to envy Him and have Him delivered to Pontius Pilate to be crucified (Matt 27:18; Acts 2:23).

God: wanted Him dead for to save the world in fulfillment of His promise spoken 4,000 years before to the serpent (John 12:23-28; John 3:16; 1John 3:8; Gen 3:15).

Jesus Rose Again From the Dead:

For a clear understanding the Bible student should read each account of the resurrection of Jesus in the four Gospels.



Matthew 28:1-10

Mark 16:9-14

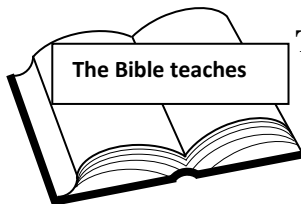
Luke 24:13-14

John 20:11-18

The Resurrection of Jesus was Essential:

Jesus dying for our sin was essential as the price of our redemption, but as an act on its own it was incomplete. To complete the process Jesus had to rise and ascend into heaven where He was accepted on our behalf and our reconciliation with God made. By His acceptance of the Father and our faith in the Lord Jesus we are justified. Paul said to the Romans:

Rom 4:25 Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.



Two Facts: 1. Jesus was delivered for our offences.

2. Jesus was raised again for our justification. Our happy state is now: **Rom 5:1** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

And Jesus Rose again from the Dead:

The resurrection of Jesus was witnessed by many believers, with no less than twelve recorded instances in the Scriptures in which He appeared unto His disciples.

Luke 24:1 Now upon the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them.

:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher.

:3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

:4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

:5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

:6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

:7 Saying, the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

:8 And they remembered his words,

:9 And returned from the sepulcher, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

- In the account of the resurrection above we have the testimony of two men in shining garments (Luke 24:4-8). Two heavenly beings who instruct the two women concerning the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

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- The testimony of Mary Magdalene and the other two women (Luke 24:10-11). Three women who on hearing the news of the resurrection of Jesus went and told it unto the eleven.

In this account we have the recorded testimony of Heaven and earth with two from heaven and three on earth. Thus God establishes the resurrection of Jesus in the mouth of two or three witnesses relating to each sphere (Matt 18:16).

Twelve Appearances of Jesus Following His Resurrection:

- Christ appears to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-17).
- Christ appears to the two Mary's (Matt 28:1-10).
- Christ Appears to the two that walked in the Country (Mark 16:12-13).
- Christ appears to Peter (1Cor 15:5).
- Christ appears to the two as they walk on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35).
- Christ appears to the ten (Thomas is not present) (John 20:19-25).
- Christ appears to the eleven (Thomas is present) (John 20:26-29).
- Christ appears by the Sea of Galilee/Tiberias (John 21:1-14).
- Christ appears to the eleven in a mountain in Galilee (Matt 28:16-20).
- Christ appears to above five hundred (1Cor 15:6).
- Christ appears to James (1Cor 15:7).
- Christ appears to all the apostles (Acts 1:4-10).

The Testimony of John:

- 1John 1:1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;
- :2** (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)
- :3** That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- :4** And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

Jesus Christ Our Sin Bearer

Rom 4:25 Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.

2Cor 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Heb 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

:25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

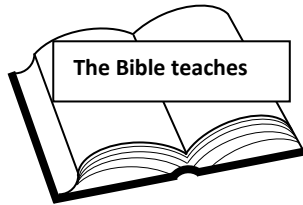
:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

1Tim 2:5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

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This is the Love of God:



John 3:16 For God so loved the world (you and I) that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The Crucifixion of the Lord Jesus

There is no greater expression of love than the love that God has shown for lost humanity. It surpasses all human understanding, and defies comprehension. Fallen man cannot equal its expression, its intensity, its sincerity, its commitment, for he is not able. Man is undeserving of it, has no legal or moral claim to it, and yet has been made the recipient of it through Jesus Christ.

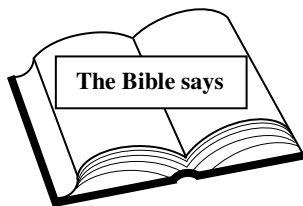
Oh Lord, help us to appreciate this great love and by your grace help us to return that love to you through Jesus Christ.

Rejection is the Condemnation:

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

- :18** He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- :19** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
- :20** For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.
- :21** But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Verses 18-19 not only reveal the need for believing in and accepting Jesus Christ but also how necessary it is to continue in relationship with Him.



Matt 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Jude 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

:21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jesus came that we might have new life. That is a changed life; a life that is His life imparted to us. It is the life we now are to live in this life in preparation for eternity.

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Points worthy of noting:

1. Adam was created in the likeness and image of God.
 2. When Adam fell, sin passed onto the whole human race.
 3. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.
 4. God's original purpose in creating man is unchanged.
5. Man's only hope of salvation was for God to be born into a human body – this made the virgin birth a necessity.
 6. Jesus was born to save God's people from their sins.
 7. Jesus knew He was to die on Calvary for the sins of mankind.
 8. No man was able to take the life of Jesus. When the appointed time came He of His own will laid His life down.
 9. Jesus stood trial in four courts, was found to be without fault in all four yet was condemned and paid the penalty of death.
 10. He was crucified, buried and rose again from the grave in His physical body.
 11. Many gave witness to His resurrection having seen Him.
 12. Jesus is the Father's provision to redeem us from sin. He is the expression of the Father's love.
 13. We are to continue in God's love.
 14. The rejection of Jesus Christ is the condemnation of the world

John 15v13 Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.