

The Necessity of the Cross

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Heb. 9:13-17

- The death of the Lord Jesus on the cross is the focal point in the history of creation.
- The cross of Christ is the "crux" of God's plan for redeeming human beings – 1 Cor. 2:2; 15:1-4.
- Without the cross there would be no Good News...
- There would be no New Covenant...
- Because there would be no Savior.

The Purpose of the Life of the Lord Jesus

- Lk. 19:10 – To seek the lost, not that the lost sought Him.
- Jn. 3:14-15 – To provide a means of escape from eternal destruction to eternal life.
- Mat. 20:28 – To serve by giving His life as a ransom for many.
- Rom. 3:23-26 – The only way God could provide for our salvation and not violate His own character or contradict His love.
- Rom. 5:6 – Our salvation could not have been made possible without the death of Jesus.
- Mat. 26:39 – God's answer to the Lord's prayer in Gethsemane proved the impossibility of our sins being forgiven otherwise.
- Heb. 5:6-11 – His prayer was heard, it was honored, it was how He became the Author of our eternal salvation.

Life Is In the Blood

- Gen. 4:10; 9:4; Lev. 17:11, 14 – A principle nearly as old as time.
- The animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were only a shadow of the final sacrifice of Jesus Christ - Heb. 9:11-15. 22-23; 10:4, 10, 18.
- Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death...”
- Rom. 3:25; 1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10 – the blood of the Lord Jesus

Christ is the “propitiation,” the “atoning victim,” the “appeasement” of Divine justice.

- Eph. 1:7; 1 Jn. 1:7; Rev. 1:5 – Only the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, can wash away the stain of sin.
- Mat. 26:28 – His blood was shed for the remission of sins according to His New Covenant (cf. Heb. 8:6-13..
- 1Jn. 1:7 – His blood continuously cleanses penitent Christians.

The Necessity of Obedience

- Heb. 5:8 – He learned obedience, so must we.
- Rom. 1:5; 16:26 – The “faith” is designed to be obeyed. “The faith” is Christ's teaching concerning salvation, life, worship, service – the Gospel system.
- Rom. 1:16-17 – Obeying the faith is believing it and living by it; (Rom 6:3-6) begins with baptism, ends at death.
- Mk. 16:15-16 – The preaching of the Gospel requires a response.
- Mat. 28:19-20 – Discipleship is obedient & biblical faith does not exist apart from obedience, cf. Acts 2:42.
- Rom. 10:14-17 – Sadly, not all have been, or will be, obedient.

Decision...

- As with Adam and Eve, the world of Noah's day, and ancient Israel, clear choices are put before us.
- Mat. 17:5 – Hear Him, or reject Him.
- Jn. 8:24 – Believe Him, or die in sins.
- Lk. 13:3, 5 – Repent, or perish.
- Mat. 10:32-33 – Confess, or be denied
- Mk. 16:15-16 – Believe and be baptized, or be condemned.

“What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!”