

# **"Why Christ Died"**

Pastor Richard Parent

Christ's atoning death is the very heart of our message. I would like us to consider some vital Bible passages on the subject.

## **A Guiltless Sacrifice**

John 8:45, 46 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?

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

Heb. 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-yet was without sin.

1Pet. 2:22, 23 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

## **Our Substitute**

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

1Pet. 1:19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

1John 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

Isa. 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

1Pet. 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

During the Civil War, a company of irregulars known as "Bushwackers" was arrested by the Union soldiers. Because they were guerrilla fighters and not in uniform, they were sentenced to be shot.

A courageous young boy in the Union Army touched his commanding officer on the arm and pleaded, "Won't you allow me to take the place of one of the men you have just condemned? I know him well - he has a large family who needs him badly. My parents are dead and I have few friends. No one will miss me. Please let me take his punishment!"

The officer hesitated, but finally gave his consent. Pulling the husband and father to one side, the young man filled his position in the death line. On the stone that marks the grave are these words: "Sacred to the memory of Willy Lear. He took my place."

## **A New Power in the Life**

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Phil. 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

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

Mt. 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

2Pet. 1:3, 4 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of

him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

1John 5:4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

### **A Once-and-for-all Sacrifice**

Heb. 7:27, 28 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect for ever.

1Pet. 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

### **A Risen Saviour**

1Cor. 15:17, 18 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

### **Christ's Present Work**

Heb. 9:11-14 When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

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

Heb. 7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

1John 2:1, 2 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence-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.

Rom. 8:1, 2 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, [who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit,] because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

This passage tells us that, though the law of sin and death keeps a Christian from living the kind of life God wants him to live, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ sets us free from the law of sin and death. In the same way, the law of gravity acts to keep a plane from flying. But when a plane reaches a certain speed, the law of aerodynamics takes over and frees the plane from the effects of gravitational force.

Zech. 3:1-4 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?" Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you."

Isa. 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

If we look through a piece of orange glass, everything is orange; if we look through a green glass, everything is green; if we look through a yellow glass, everything is yellow. When we believe in Christ as our Saviour, God looks at us through the Lord Jesus. He sees us in all the white holiness of His Son.