

Toward Understanding Ourselves as a Christian

Lesson # 5 -- Understanding Ourselves from the Perspective of the Crucifixion

Introduction

- A. In our lesson on the Fall and our sinfulness we realized that we were in a hopeless and helpless condition. We had lost the ability to return to God and unable to control, let alone cure, our fallenness. Rom 5:6; Eph 2:12
- B. If there were a redemption provided -- it would have to be of such a dynamic and comprehensive nature -- that it would reverse the effects of the Fall.

I. The Necessity of the Crucifixion.

- A. The Crucifixion was necessary because of the character of God.

God is absolute in Truth, Love, and Holiness. It would be impossible for Him to forgive and accept a person without some transaction whereby His character would be vindicated. That transaction would demand a sacrifice that met at least six requirements.

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|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A divine-human | 3. Perfect obedience | 5. Infinite worth |
| 2. Representation | 4. A priestly offering | 6. Vicarious transference |

The transaction was the Crucifixion and Jesus Christ was the sacrifice. What the infinite perfection of God's holiness demanded -- His love provided.

- B. The Crucifixion was necessary because of the sinfulness of mankind.

Because the very nature of sin is a transgression against God, it would also be an impossibility for Him to forgive and accept a person, without that sin being judged. Because the character of sin is such, without redemption, its judgment would demand an eternity of separation from God and under His wrath.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God. Heb 10:31

II. The Characteristics of the Crucifixion.

- A. It was a Divine-human transaction. (The Incarnate Son taking divine judgment)

All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord (the Father) hath laid on him (the Lord Jesus) the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

- B. It was a personal transaction. (Jesus Christ as person died for us as persons)

... the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20

- C. It was a historical transaction. (The event happened in our time and space)

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Gal 4:4,5)

D. It was a redemptive transaction. (A production of spiritual power)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth Rom 1:16

E. It was a consummative transaction. (All the OT prophecies were fulfilled)

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. John 1:28

F. It was a covenantal transaction. (It is the basis of God's promise of life)

This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matt 26:28

G. It was a revelatory transaction. (We here see the character of God and of sin)

But God commended (revealed/proved) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5:8

H. It was a representative transaction. (Jesus represented us on the cross)

1. Jesus Christ suffered and died as our personal substitute.

... Christ died for us. Rom 5:8

2. In Jesus Christ we died in Him.

I have been crucified with Christ Gal 2:20

III. The Provision of the Crucifixion.

A. In Christ, we who were once dead to God (Eph 2:1), are now alive (Eph 2:5).

B. In Christ, we who were once guilty (Rom 3:23), are now forgiven (Col 2:13).

C. In Christ, we who were once unrighteous (Rom 3:10), are now righteous (Rom 5:1).

D. In Christ, we who were once enslaved to Satan (Jn 8:44) are now free (Col 1:13).

E. In Christ, we who were once ... Hell (Matt 23:33), are now ... Heaven (Jn 10:28).

F. In Christ, we who were once enslaved to sin (Jn 8:34), are now free (Jn 8:36).

1. Because Jesus Christ died for us and we died in Him, there is the provision of a daily cleansing from the power of the old nature, the world, and the work of the enemy. Rom 6:1-11; I John 1:7

2. Our responsibility is to accept what it meant to have died in the Lord Jesus (every facet of sin was condemned), and to choose to live free from sin. This involves surrender (Rom 12:1,2) and practical decisions to practice holiness in our daily life. Rom 6:12-18

Recommended Assignment (Preparation for the Next Lesson)

Monday: Read Job 19:25,26. Did Job expect to be resurrected? If he did what kind of a resurrection did he have in mind? _____

What evidence do you have for your answer? _____

Tuesday: Read John 20:19-29. What kind of a resurrection did the Lord Jesus experience? _____

What evidence do you have for your answer? _____

Wednesday: Read Acts 2:22-32. Find the place in the Bible where David prophecied of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. _____

In this prophecy-fulfillment we have an evidence that shows Christianity is true. Explain why _____

Thursday: Read Romans 1:1-16. What does the Resurrection of our Savior prove about Him? _____

Friday: Read Romans 6:1-6. What provision has God made for the Christian's daily life through the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus? _____

Saturday: Read I Cor. 15:1-58. What provision has God made for the Christian's future through the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus? _____