

What Must the Messiah Do?



Bad News Good News

Sinful man is under the condemnation of eternal death. However, the good news is that the love of God is interested in saving man. To satisfy both the justice and love of God—Christ was born that He might die upon the cross for salvation.

Introduction: The Gospel (the good news) is that Christ died, He was buried and rose again. Have you received the good news? Do you stand in it? Have you been saved? *See 1 Cor 15:1-4*

Why The Cross is a MUST for Salvation

The scriptures point out the absolute necessity of Christ's death in order that God could pardon sin and grant man His salvation.

Here are five things that the Messiah (Christ) 'must' do:

1. **Must be lifted up:** *Joh 3:14* "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so **must** the Son of man be lifted up."
 - a. **Lifted up:** Three times in John, here and *8:28; 12:32*
 - b. **Looking up:** *Num 21:8-9* Those doomed to die from snakebite could be healed by obeying God's command to look up at the elevated bronze snake and by believing that God would heal them.
 - c. **Looking at the cross:** Similarly, Jesus was lifted up on a Cross that all might see Him and believe. Salvation happens when we look up Him in belief.
Without the lifting up—there can be no salvation!
2. **Must go to Jerusalem:** *Matt 16:21* "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He **must** go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."
 - a. **Why Jerusalem?** This was the city of peace—shalom, and the City of David where the great temple stood.
 - b. **Our Jerusalem?** Where is your Jerusalem—the place and time where you met Jesus as your savior?
Without going to Jerusalem—there can be no salvation!
3. **Must suffer and be rejected:** *Luk 17:25* "But first He **must** suffer many things and be rejected by this generation."
 - a. **The suffering servant:** *Isa 53*
Without suffering and rejection—there can be no salvation!
4. **Must be delivered:** *Luk 24:7* Hear the testimony of the angels at the empty tomb: Saying, "The Son of man **must** be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."
Without being delivered—there can be no salvation!
5. **Must suffer and rise again:** *Acts 17:3* "He [*Paul*] explained the prophecies and proved that the Messiah **must** suffer and rise from the dead. He said, "This Jesus I'm telling you about is the Messiah." [*NLT*]
Without the resurrection—there can be no salvation!

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NKJV)

:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

:2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ died** for our sins

according to the Scriptures,

:4 and that **He was buried**, and that **He rose again** the third day according to the Scriptures...

John 3:9-15 (NKJV)

:9 "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked. **:10** Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? **:11** I assure you, We tell you what We know and have seen, and yet you won't believe Our testimony. **:12** But if you don't believe Me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **:13** No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man [who lives in heaven] has come down from heaven. **:14** And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **:15** so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.

The only basis on which a Holy God could forgive sin was by His Son bearing the penalty of the sinner's guilt. He cannot forgive merely on the grounds of the sinner's repentance. It can only be because the penalty has been fully paid. His Love caused Him to give His only begotten Son to be a ransom for sin, thus the sinner can be forgiven.