

## The True Meaning Of Christ's Death



### **The Power of the Cross**

In order to grasp the full extent of what was accomplished through the death of Jesus Christ, a number of different words must be used and their meaning fully understood. Man's sin was so great, God's Holiness so pure, that the gulf between them which must be spanned required an amazing accomplishment on the part of our Lord.

### **The death of Christ the Messiah is revealed in five key words!**

#### **1. Substitution:** *The Vicarious Substitution*

a. **Vicarious:** From the word 'vicar' which means substitute—one who takes the place of another. *Isa 53:6; Mat 20:28; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 2:24; 1 Pet 3:18* all teach that Christ was **OUR** substitute!

b. **Took on sin:** Jesus took upon Himself our sin—but He had no sin. *Joh 10:17-18. He did NOT bear His own sin. 1 Pet 2:22*

#### **2. Atonement:** *The Covering for Sin*

a. **Old Testament example:** Atonement had to be made for individual sins *Lev 6:2-7* and for the whole congregation *Lev 4:13-20*.

(1) The elders laid hands on the sacrificial animal so that the sins were transferred to the animal that was then slain.

This produced a covering for the one who sinned (or for the nation). See *Psa 51:9; Isa 38:17*

(2) The Day of Atonement. *Lev 23:27*

#### **3. Propitiation:** *The Love of God*

a. **Propitiation:** Turning away the wrath of God by sacrifice. The death of Christ was the means of removing God's wrath. See *Rom 3:25; 1 John 2:2; Heb 2:14-18*.

b. **The wrath of God:** The wrath of God is mentioned 585 times in the Old Testament and in *John 3:36* and *Rom 1:18*.

c. **The love of God:** God's love was what caused God's wrath to be appeased. *1 John 4:10*

#### **4. Reconciliation:** *Making Peace with God—Col 1:19-23*

a. **Word of reconciliation:** *2 Co 5:18-19* "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

b. **Reconciled to God:** "At first God and man stood face to face with each other. In sinning, Adam turned his back upon God. Then God turned his back upon Adam. Christ's death has satisfied the demands of God and now God has again turned His face toward man. It remains for man to turn round about and face God. Since God has been reconciled by the death of his Son, man is now entreated to be reconciled to God."

*Pentecostal Theology—From chapter on Soteriology*

Heb 2:14-18 (NKJV)

**:14** Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

**:15** and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

**:16** For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.

**:17** Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

**:18** For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Col 1:15-23 (NKJV)

**:19** For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

**:20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

**:21** And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

**:22** in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

**:23** if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

*(Continued on next page)*

## **5. Redemption: Released from Captivity**

- a. Definition:** The word 'redemption' signifies a releasing or liberation from captivity, slavery or death by the payment of a price, called a ransom.
- b. The death of Christ:** The death of Christ on the cross is seen in Scripture as the price which Jesus paid for the deliverance of the sinner. Matt 20:28; Heb 9:12

### ***According to the New Testament we have redemption from the following:***

- (1) From the penalty of the Law** —Paul calls this the “curse of the law.” “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, ‘Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree’” *Gal. 3:13. KJV*
- (2) From the Law itself** —“Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ” *Rom. 7:4. KJV*  
We are now under grace. “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under law, but under grace.” *Rom. 6:14 KJV*
- (3) From sin as a power in one’s life** —“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” *Rom. 6:6. KJV*  
“How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” *Rom. 6:2 KJV*  
(See also *1 Pet. 1:18, 19; Rom. 6:12–14.*) *KJV*
- (4) From Satan** —“And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” *2 Tim. 2:26.*  
“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also Himself took part of the same: that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil: and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetimes subject to bondage” *Heb. 2:14-15 KJV.*
- (5) From all evil, including our present mortal body**—“Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.” *Gal 1:4. KJV*  
“Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory” *Eph. 1:14 KJV*  
“And not only they, but ourselves also ... waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body” *Rom. 8:23 KJV*
  - (a) This final consummation of our redemption will be realized at our Lord’s Second Coming. “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”  
*Luke. 21:28 KJV*