

JESUS WAS NOT BEING PUNISHED BY GOD IN OUR PLACE

God the Father and Jesus the Son are One and they are united in their goal of defeating sin and death. God the Father and Jesus the Son allowed sin to kill the sinless physical body of Jesus so that sin would be condemned to extinction for doing the atrocious deed of killing Jesus. Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice for sin's condemnation. Jesus arose from the dead with all power and authority to take sin and death away. Jesus rescues the believer from both sin and death. Jesus will ultimately remove sin and death from all creation. Romans 8:3 The purpose of the cross was not to appease the wrath of God. God's wrath is perfect already. The believer is changed to a new creation "in Christ" and is moved out from under the wrath of God. Jesus was not paying God to allow appeasement of His wrath or to allow God to forgive sin. God freely forgives sin. Jesus was not being punished by God in our place.

To say that God punished Jesus in our place leaves room for much misunderstanding of the cross. It sounds like God the Father is moving against Jesus the Son to satisfy justice. Jesus did become fully man and He did accomplish undoing what Adam did when he sinned. Jesus lived sinless and died sinless. This one act of righteousness, dying sinless, gave Jesus the right to rescue humanity and creation from sin. The cross does justify Jesus in rescuing from sin and death. But Jesus is not paying a debt to God or Satan.

God has given man the responsibility to cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction, desire rescue from sin, and believe in Jesus for that rescue. These are the very ingredients of repentance. God's purpose for allowing freedom to sin is so that a man may choose to respond to God in love. God is love and God wants a man to reciprocate in love. Through cooperation with conviction leading to repentance and faith, God gives eternal life and makes believers new creations "in Christ." God justifies giving eternal life by making the believer a new creation "in Christ." The believer is justified, sanctified, and glorified in the "eternal now" of God. Justice is served because God sees the believer in his final state being totally sinless and totally righteous. There is no penalty for being totally sinless and totally righteous.

To say that Jesus paid the penalty for our sin leaves room for much misunderstanding of the cross. It sounds like the Father killed the Son in order to have the right to forgive sin. But God freely forgives sin in that He does not keep any sinner from cooperating with the Holy Spirit, desire rescue from sin, and believe in Jesus for that rescue. When a condition is applied to forgiveness in the Bible the true meaning of “forgiveness” is release from bondage to sin. To read that God forgives by the blood of Jesus leaves room for much misunderstanding of the cross. The word “forgiveness” in this case means rescue or release from bondage of sin. The physical blood of Jesus shed for all humanity gives Him the right to take away sin. The spiritual blood, the life-giving Spirit of Jesus, enters the believer and rescues us from sin. So God rescues believers by the blood of Jesus.

God punishing Jesus is not found in Scripture, not even in Isaiah 53:5 (compare Hebrews 5:8). Jesus paying the penalty for sin is not found in Scripture. These phrases are not found in Scripture and their use by evangelists can lead to professions of faith without repentance. Some pray a prayer asking for forgiveness without repentance. These are false conversions. We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Ephesians 1:7 forgiveness here does not mean that our sins are covered. It means that we are being released from our bondage to sin. We no longer have to sin. To be redeemed through His blood means to be released from bondage of sins.