

THE SUBSTITUTIONAL AND LIBERATING DEATH OF JESUS AT THE CROSS

Jesus was clothed in a mortal body in the likeness of sinful flesh, sharing the consequences of sin by living in our world ruled by evil. Jesus became vulnerable to the abuse of sin and the consequences of the fall, even unto death.

Jesus came down from heaven to confront the enemy, Satan and sin, destroy their works and break their power. Jesus came to set believers free from sin and reconcile them back to God by making them new creations in Christ. Romans 5:10 Isaiah 53:5 Matthew 1:21 1 John 3:8 Colossians 2:15

The Second Adam, Jesus, had to be exposed to the same enemy as Adam and Eve, namely Satan. Jesus had to stay sinless and obliterate the power of Satan and sin. The brutal sacrifice of Jesus for sin's defeat was God's medium for condemning sin to extermination. Romans 8:3 Genesis 3:15

God's forgiveness does not overlook or ignore our offences. God, who forgives, takes upon Himself the consequences of sin. God was in Christ on the cross. God allowed all sin of all time to come against Him and kill His physical yet sinless body. God is not vengeful or retributive. God the Father is not killing His Son in order to appease His wrath against sin. God allowed the wrath of man's sin to come against Him. God's nature of love and forgiveness is not dependent on His repugnance toward our sins. God is just in giving eternal life, and justice is only served through rescuing the sinner from sin's corruptive power. The love of God the Father and God the Son was supremely demonstrated by their sacrifice at the cross. Jesus became worthy, having borne the sins of humanity crushing His physical body. Jesus became worthy to liberate humanity from sin and Satan. Genesis 3:15 He arose with all power and authority to rescue believing sinners from their sins and give them eternal life. Sinners are rescued from sin to eternal life by believing Jesus and receiving the resurrected life of Jesus through the new birth. We are saved by His life. Romans 5:10

In His forgiveness, God does not demand payment under the guise of justice before pardoning the believing sinner. So Jesus is not making a payment to God by the shedding of His blood so that God can forgive and rescue sinners. God is neither satisfied nor His wrath appeased at the cross. Jesus is not saving us from God, He is saving us from sin.

The cross does save us from God's wrath and the just punishment for sin that we deserve, but not because Jesus is punished by the Father. Jesus went to the cross to overcome sin, defeat it, and have

the right to remove it from all creation. And Jesus ultimately will. For the sake of justice, God delivers believers from the kingdom of darkness through Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57

Jesus was made worthy. Isaiah 53:5 Hebrews 5:8 Revelation 5

Jesus bore our sin. The consequences of our sin, expressed as enmity against God, was directed at and upon Jesus throughout His earthly life, His betrayal, His verbal and physical abuse, and His sinless death. Jesus bore in full the grave consequence of our evil and corrupted world far distant from the glory and majesty He had in eternity past. Jesus bore the wrath of the sin of humanity because He is God and all sin is against God. Becoming perfected by His sinless death, He was found to the end to be without blemish or spot. Hebrews 2:10; 5:8 1 Peter 1:19; 2:22-24 Hebrews 9:14

The price Jesus paid was the cost borne by God Himself in the place of sinners as the sacrifice and the substitute. God responded to man's sin by love and peace through forgiveness.

Colossians 1:14; 2:13; 3:13 Ephesians 1:7; 4:32

It was by His sinless death that Jesus condemned sin to extinction, disarmed wicked satanic powers, set us free from sin's power, and gave us the gift of righteousness. Romans 3:22; 8:3 Galatians 5:24 Hebrews 2:14 Colossians 2:15

His victory over sin and death allows redemption for all who receive Him as Lord and Savior.

Jesus used sin's injustice (death of a sinless man) to liberate man in His justice. Romans 8:3

Jesus was crushed for our iniquities, bore our sins, and thus overcame sin's power for our sake and in our place. Isaiah 53 God's plan was a genius and amazing transaction between heaven and earth and saturated with His love.

The sacrifice of the Lamb was approved as worthy, its aroma was pleasing, and is the only satisfaction the Father received. Ephesians 5:2 The gift of eternal life is offered unconditionally to all humanity but must be received conditionally by their willingness to accept it.

Jesus set believers free from the demands of the law not because we are indebted to God but because we are in bondage to sin. So, Jesus was not paying our debt to God. He was rescuing us from sin.

The price Jesus paid for our sin was not a payment to God nor to Satan. The price Jesus paid was to rescue us from sin by the condemnation of sin in His flesh. Condemnation of sin means Jesus overcame and defeated sin to its ultimate extinction.

