

11. The Death of Christ

Romans 5:6-11

Jesus Christ was put to death on a cross by wicked men.

The prophets prophesied this would happen:

Isaiah 53:7-9

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

[7] 他被欺压，在受苦的时候却不开口；他像羊羔被牵到宰杀之地，又像羊在剪毛的人手下无声，他也是这样不开口。[8] 因受欺压和审判，他被夺去，至於他同世的人，谁想他受鞭打、从活人之地被剪除，是因我百姓的罪过呢？[9] 他虽然未行强暴，口中也没有诡诈，人还使他与恶人同埋；谁知死的时候与财主同葬。

Christ predicted this would happen:

Matthew 20:18-19

Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

看哪，我们上耶路撒冷去，人子要被交给祭司长和文士。他们要定他死罪，又交给外邦人，将他戏弄，鞭打，钉在十字架上；第三日他要复活。

Men hated Christ, because He told them their works we're evil:

John 7:7

The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

[7] 世人不能恨你们，却是恨我，因为我指证他们所做的事是恶的。

So they put Him to death, thinking that was the end of Him. But His death was planned by God. He came to die. It was always God's plan to send His Son into the world to die:

Acts 2:23

Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.

[23] 他既按着神的定旨先见被交与人，你们就藉着无法之人的手，把他钉在十字架上，杀了。

So we need to know the purpose of His death.

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

[6] 因我们还软弱的时候，基督就按所定的日期为罪人死。

He “*died for the ungodly.*” He died for others. In their place.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

[7] 为义人死，是少有的；为仁人死、或者有敢做的。

History, especially the history of warfare, records occasions when people give their own lives in the place of others. Christ Himself said:

John 15:13

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

[13] 人为朋友舍命，人的爱心没有比这个大的。

And this was “*when we were yet without strength.*” We have no strength to help ourselves. We need a Saviour, and Christ has to come to us, we can't go to Him.

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

[8] 惟有基督在我们还作罪人的时候为我们死，神的爱就在此向我们显明了。

Christ died for us “*while we were yet sinners.*” In other words, even though there is nothing in us to commend us to Him at all. We are altogether unlovely. Yet He still laid down His life for us. And He had to come, because there is no other way to reconcile sinners to God other than by a perfect substitute.

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.

[18] 因基督也曾一次为罪受苦，就是义的代替不义的，为要引我们到神面前。按着肉体说，他被治死；按着灵性说，他复活了。

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

[9] 现在我们既靠着他的血称义，就更要藉着他免去神的忿怒。

We are “*justified by His blood.*” Justification is the opposite of condemnation. It doesn’t mean we are made clean. We’ll still be sinners until we die. It means we’re no longer condemned for our own sin, but regarded in God’s sight as righteous. Our sin is imputed to Christ, and His righteousness to us:

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

[21] 神使那无罪的，替我们成为罪，好叫我们在他里面成为神的义。

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

[10] 因为我们作仇敌的时候，且藉着神儿子的死，得与神和好；既已和好，就更要因他的生得救了。

We are reconciled to God by Christ’s death. But not everybody is. We have to come to Jesus Christ. Trust in Him to save us. We don’t just sit back and do nothing. We need to recognise our need of Him. We need to acknowledge our sin, repent and turn to Him. Pray to Him. Begin a relationship with the only one who has paid the price. This is the message we have for the world. He’s not just a teacher, but a Saviour of sinners.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

[18] 一切都是出於神；他藉着基督使我们与他和好，又将劝人与他和好的职分赐给我们。[19] 这就是神在基督里，叫世人与自己和好，不将他们的过犯归到他们身上，并且将这和好的道理托付了我们。[20] 所以，我们作基督的使者，就好像神藉我们劝你们一般。我们替基督求你们与神和好。

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

[11] 不但如此，我们既藉着我主耶稣基督得与神和好，也就藉着他以神为乐。

Christians are joyful because they know for sure they won’t be condemned for their sins, but Christ has paid the price for them. They know they’re going to heaven when they die. That sounds arrogant. But they know it’s not because of anything in them, but because of what Jesus Christ has done for them. That makes the Christian humble to the dust.

1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

我将这些话写给你们信奉神儿子之名的人，要叫你们知道自己有永生。

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

[14]原来基督的爱激励我们；因我们想，一人既替众人死，众人就都死了； [15]并且他替众人死，是叫那些活着的人不再为自己活，乃为替他们死而复活的主活。