



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Jesus Christ Died for Us!

Focus Verses: Romans 5:7-8 - ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. ⁸But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Lesson Text: Luke 23:26, 32-34, 39-43; Romans 5:6-11

Truth About God: The cross is the ultimate expression of God's grace.

Truth For My Life: I will recognize God's grace as the sole basis of salvation.

Jesus' crucifixion, death, burial, and resurrection are God's invitation to us for forgiveness, reconciliation, and ultimately resurrection. God chose this path because He wants to forgive us, restore relationships with us, and save us from the guilt and power of sin. We must accept what God has offered us through Jesus Christ by placing our faith in, or trusting, Jesus Christ and the atonement He provided at Calvary for our sins.

With this invitation also comes a higher calling. Jesus displayed compassion and forgiveness toward others so we might emulate Him. Earlier in His ministry, Jesus put it this way: *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me"* (Luke 9:23). Jesus invited His disciples to deny what seemed natural to themselves and carry around their cross, which was a symbol of the death penalty, to follow Jesus.

Jesus taught that being a disciple was about denying ourselves and carrying around the inevitability of death, spending our lives serving His higher purpose. Forgiveness, reconciliation, and salvation come alongside the call for believers to incarnate the risen Christ in our lives by displaying the compassion and grace of Jesus Christ to others.

Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection is good news for human beings. Since salvation involves being saved from something, to understand what it means to be saved, we must know we are in danger and need a Savior. Salvation is possible because God has demonstrated His grace to all humanity by making salvation available to us all. In Ephesians 2:8-9, Paul clarified: *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* Both grace and faith extend from God. We believe, not because of our faithfulness but because of God's faithfulness.

In Romans 5:6-8, Paul made it clear that salvation is not the result of our strength or effort. Jesus was the only one who would care enough for us to lay down His life for sinful and ungodly people like us. Earlier Paul indicted the entire human race as sinners (Romans 3:23). When Jesus surrendered His life, it was not for the righteous but for the ungodly.

The Spirit of God laid upon the Man Christ Jesus the sins of humankind to display God's justice. However, removing our offense was not enough to repair the breach in our relationship with God. The holy God of Heaven imputed all our sins to the righteous Man Jesus, who never sinned. Now through the gospel, God graciously imputed Jesus' righteousness to us, who do not always live righteously. Justification does not mean we are righteous, only that God has declared us righteous.

Paul indicated that violating the covenant had made us enemies with God, but through Jesus' atonement, the relationship between God and humankind is restored (Romans 5:10). God does not just want to release us from negative consequences; He also wants to develop an intimate relationship with us. Grace is the only basis for salvation. Although God knows we will never be fully righteous, He still offers us salvation from our guilt and from the power of sin through Jesus Christ alone. Now that is extraordinarily good news.

Jesus died for us, was buried, rose again, and provided a way of salvation for all. We are messengers, we are those sent forth into the world to share the good news. We are ambassadors for His kingdom wherever we go. As we carry this message, others can see if we have "good news" by how we live because we live through the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Do we trust in Jesus for salvation? Are we resting in the finished work of His cross? He can carry us. It is up to us to cast our own cares aside and allow Jesus to support us all the way.