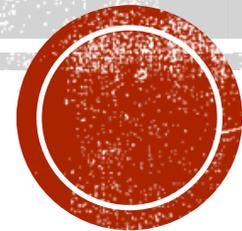
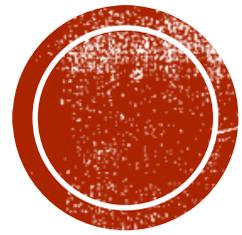


KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE

Author: Paul E. Little InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition



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JESUS CHRIST'S DEATH

The gospel is not a set of swimming instructions to a drowning person. It is the God-man jumping in and rescuing a drowning person.

CENTRAL FACT OF HISTORY

- The death of Christ on the cross also singles out the “uniqueness” of Christianity. Here God has done for us what we cannot do for ourselves. He has provided the way for each one of us, prone to sin and distant from our Maker, to be forgiven and brought into vital relationship with him.
- All this is based not on something we must do but on something God himself in his Son has already done.



OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY

- Christ's death is the central theme of both Old and New Testaments. As far back as the Garden of Eden, when God cursed the serpent, he promised victory over evil and a Deliverer (Genesis 3:15).
- The prophet Isaiah gives us a clear promise of One who would die for our sins. "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:5-6).
- Little, Paul E.. Know What You Believe (p. 74). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.



FULFILLED SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

- God's plan for deliverance was built on the sacrificial system; he instituted the blood sacrifice. Final deliverance came with Christ's sacrifice, explained this way in Hebrews: "When this priest [Jesus] had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God" (Hebrews 10:12, italics added). Jesus accomplished what the Old Testament priests could only hope for.
- Little, Paul E.. Know What You Believe (p. 75). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.



ATONEMENT

- Christ's death is spoken of as the atonement for our sin. It has been suggested that atonement means basically "at-one-ment"—that is to say, a bringing together of those who are estranged. But the Old Testament word means, essentially, "to cover." The animal sacrifices provided a "covering" for sin until the death of Christ would forever destroy sin's power.
- Little, Paul E.. Know What You Believe (p. 77). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.



RECONCILIATION

- Reconciliation implies former hostility between the reconciled parties. Sin separates us from a holy God. The death of Christ did away with the cause of God's enmity by taking away our sin.
- Little, Paul E.. Know What You Believe (p. 78). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.



APPEASEMENT

- Appeasement or propitiation are also used to describe the atoning death of Christ. Propitiation is used only in the King James Version of the Bible, but it carries the same idea. Both of these words have within them the concept of “the removal of wrath by the offering of a gift,”
- Little, Paul E.. Know What You Believe (p. 78). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.



RANSOM

- The word used by Jesus to define his death, closely linked to the idea of redemption – buying back or restoring.
- Ransom was commonly used in the Greek to refer to the price paid for redeeming a slave.
- 1 Peter 1:17-19
- ¹⁷ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.



SUBSTITUTION

- Christ died for us – in our place
- 1 Peter 3:18
- ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,
- 2 Corinthians 5:20-21
- ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.



THEORIES MINIMIZING THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

- Moral influence/example – repent and reform to be reconciled.
- Governmental – Christ death was necessary to preserve God’s law and serve as a public example of the value God places on the law.
- Accident of history – it was unexpected and unforeseen – directly contradicts Christ’s words (John 12:27, Matthew 26:39)
- Martyr Theory – Christ was just another martyr of history.



NECESSITY OF THE CROSS

- Why couldn't God just forgive?
- Is not God all powerful? Is not God all-loving and able to pardon sin without sacrifice? Why can't he forgive sin out of his pure mercy?
- Anselm "God cannot deal with sin except for as in His holiness He perceives it. If he did not punish it, or make adequate satisfaction for it, then He would be forgiving it unjustly."



LOVE AND HOLINESS

- God exercises His attributes in harmony with each other. His holiness demands atonement, or as we call it a *penalty* for sin.
- His amazing love provides the payment.
- In the cross of Christ “love and faithfulness meet together (Psalm 85:10).



WHAT THE CROSS TELLS US

- Each person is of value to God
- Iniquity and evil are intolerable to God
- God's love is deep, His justice is wide, in perfect balance
- One divine person, Jesus Christ, can pay the debt for the human race
- Assurance of sin is not presumption but based on fact.
- We are ransomed, redeemed, restored, renewed
- The estrangement from our Creator has been healed
- We can be a child of God, a member of His family



ONE PERSON DIE TO SAVE THE WHOLE WORLD?

- The effectiveness of Christ's death depends on who died. This was no mere man. Jesus Christ was the God-man
- Christ's life was of infinite value, and his death likewise had infinite worth.
- The sum total of the value of all those for whom He died does not approximate the infinite value of Christ's divine life, which He surrendered on Calvary in sacrifice.



THE GIFT OF GOD

- Romans 6:23
- ²³ For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- The cross is God's gift.
- John 1:12
- ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- Christ's sacrifice is a pardon and reprieve from death for each of us who is underserving... We can simply received him and his forgiveness as a free gift and so experience eternal life.



ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

- The certainty we are forgiven, our assurance of salvation, rests entirely on the substitutionary death of Christ as its base of a restored relationship with the Creator... From the Cross, just before He died, Jesus said, “It is finished” (John 19:30) So we speak of the “finished work of Christ,” expressing our faith that Jesus has already done everything necessary for our salvation.”
- Assurance of salvation should lead to deep joy and a loving response to Christ as we continue to trust in Him.
- Titus 3:4-7
- ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.



GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION

- The reconciling cross of Christ represents God's desire to be involved in our world.
- God in Christ became involved in this life. He assumed its burdens and entered into its tragedies. Finally, Christ took on full responsibility for this life by becoming "sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21)

