

The True Report

There are six questions that every news report should answer. They are “Who, what, where, when, why, and how.” A single verse of scripture answers five of these six questions concerning the death of Jesus Christ, and does so in only seventeen words. Everything we need to know about why Christ died is given in this one verse. Leading up to this powerful verse, the apostle Paul warns us against “...divers and strange doctrines,” saying, *“It is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats (doctrines), which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.”*

Have you believed a doctrine that says you will “always be a sinner as long as you live?” That “doctrine” is a self-fulfilling prophecy for those who believe it. As Jesus said, they will “die in their sins” ^{John 8:24}, and be lost. Why not believe what the scriptures clearly say about sin and salvation and live free from sin for the rest of your life in “righteousness, peace, and joy, in the Holy Ghost?” ^{Romans 14:17}. The apostle gave us just such a “doctrine” in only seventeen words. If you can believe the message of this verse, you will certainly be “made free from sin.” ^{Romans 6:18}. You will find that Jesus meant exactly what He said, *“My yoke is easy, and my burden is light”*

“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.” ^{Hebrews 13:12}

- Who?** “...Jesus...” Jesus Christ is the subject of this verse.
- What** did Jesus do? “...suffered...” Jesus suffered and died on the cross at Calvary.
- Where** did He suffer and die? “...without the gate...” Jesus was crucified outside the walls of Jerusalem.
- When** did Jesus suffer and die? This is the only question not answered in this verse, but we know when.
- Why** did Jesus suffer and die? “...that He might sanctify the people...”
- How** did Jesus sanctify the people? “...with His own blood...”

The truth of this passage denies all the “theories” of Jesus dying to pay penalty, punishment, or debt. He died to sanctify the people! Sanctification is not a process you enter after salvation. Jesus accomplished and finished our sanctification upon the cross.

The word “sanctify” used in this verse is properly defined by Strong's Greek Dictionary as “to make holy.” Many theologians define the word as “set apart,” but that is not what the average man on the street in the apostle's day would have understood. If you want to know the truth about the meaning of words, avoid theological definitions, because the apostles did not speak “theological Greek.” For example, if

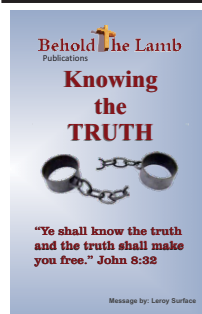
you really want to know what “justified” means, don't ask a theologian; ask an officer of the “U.S. Bureau of Standards and Weights,” and he will tell you that the unjust measure must be “made just” to be “justified.” Ask a “Certified Public Accountant,” and they will tell you “the books must balance” before they are considered “justified.”

Concerning sanctification, the “holy vessels” in the Old Testament Temple had to be thoroughly “sanctified” before they could be “covered with clean linen,” and “set apart” until needed for service. Christ has “sanctified the people” with His own blood. He has “purified their hearts” from all sin, and made them fit vessels to be filled with the Spirit of God almighty. The apostle John, writing in his “Revelation of Jesus Christ,” begins, *“Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood...”* ^{Revelation 1:5}.

Paul, comparing the sacrifices of the old and the new covenants, wrote, *“If the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”* ^{Hebrews 9:13-14}. If the blood of animals could ceremonially cleanse the outer man, how much more does the blood of Christ wash the heart, mind, and conscience, of those who trust in Him?

The apostle continues this thought in the next chapter, *“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins”* ^{Hebrews 10:4}. Pay close attention to the next several verses; *“Wherefore when He cometh into the world...”* This speaks of the incarnation, when Christ received His body in the womb of Mary. *“...He saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me...”* ^{Hebrews 10:5}. His “body” was prepared to be a sacrifice to “take away the sin of the world.” *“...I come to do thy will O God...”* ^{Hebrews 10:7}. The “will of God” concerning Christ Jesus was that He would suffer and die for us, not to take our “penalty” or “pay our debt,” but to “take away our sin” ^{1 John 3:5}. *“By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”* ^{Hebrews 10:10}.

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