

Behold the Lamb

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Why Christ Died

God is both merciful and forgiving. According to what God told Moses almost fifteen hundred years before Christ died on the cross, our "God" has always been a merciful, gracious, and forgiving God. If this is true, why is it taught that Jesus had to die on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven?

"And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin..." Exodus 34:6-7

The prophet Isaiah said, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the

unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7 These words, written almost seven hundred years before Christ died on the cross, reveal God as one who will "abundantly pardon" even the most wicked among us if they will "forsake their way" and "turn to the LORD." So if God has always pardoned those who forsake their wickedness and turn to Him, why would it have been necessary for Jesus to die on the cross in order for God to pardon our sins?

The church, from the most lascivious to the most legalistic among us, teaches that Jesus died on the cross so that God could forgive our sins. The inescapable truth is, God has always forgiven and pardoned those who have forsaken their sins and turned to Him? Another "inescapable truth" is that Jesus Christ must have died on the cross for something so much more.

The apostle Paul makes a powerful point when he tells us "...if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." Galatians 2:21 It is evident that if the Law could make anyone righteous then for Jesus to suffer and die to make people righteous would be a waste and a vanity. The same is true for anything that was available to mankind before Jesus Christ came and died. If Christ died to forgive and pardon sins, which was something God had forever done for all who forsake their ways and turn to him, Christ's death was unnecessary and in vain.

So, why did Christ die? Those who know the answer to this question also "know the truth" which Jesus said will "make them free from sin." Those who scream, "No one is free from sin" can speak only from their personal experience, because they do not know (or believe) the word of God. Christ, the creator of the universe, became a man in the womb of Mary for the sole purpose of dying on the cross to "take away the sin of the world." John 1:29 The Old Testament prophecy of the "Seventy Weeks" tells why Christ came into the world: "...to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness..." Daniel 9:24-27 From the beginning of time, God had "forgiven transgressions," but Christ died to "finish the transgression." God had "forgiven sins," but Christ died to "make an end of sins." God had "forgiven iniquities," but Christ died to "make reconciliation for iniquity." Through His death, He "destroyed the works of the devil," 1 John 3:8 when He "destroyed the devil himself" Hebrews 2:14 for those who "abide in Christ." 1 John 3:5-6

Before the first century passed, men had started to pervert the gospel of God's grace into something that it was not. Jesus foretold this event in His parable of "The Wheat and the Tares," saying, "...while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares

among the wheat..." Matthew 13:25 The apostle Paul warned the believers in Galatia against those who "pervert the gospel of Christ." Galatians 1:4-5 They twisted the grace of Christ into a doctrine that gave us over a thousand years of spiritual darkness. Then came the reformation as the "light of the gospel" began to pierce through the "darkness of religion," but once again, the "enemy" sowed tares among the wheat.

"Penal substitution" is a redemptive theory that has been around for less than five hundred years. This "theory" is commonly expressed as "Jesus took the penalty for our sins." Although it is never once spoken by the scriptures, almost everyone in the modern church believes this theory, and most have come to the logical conclusion that if "Jesus took my penalty, I can continue to sin without fear of suffering a penalty." Very obviously, as Jude said almost two thousand years ago, "ungodly men" are still "turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness." Jude 1:4 Jesus said the "tares" are "the children of the wicked one," Matthew 13:38 but the "seed" that produces them is the "perverted gospel." **Where does the scripture say** our sins are forgiven, "past, present, and future, even before we commit them?" The Bible says Christ's sacrifice declares "his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." Romans 3:25 **Where does the scripture say** Christ shed His precious blood to "cover our sins?" The apostle Paul said, "Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate." Hebrews 13:12 **Where does the scripture say** a "child of God is still a sinner, and must sin everyday?" John said, "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not..." 1 John 3:5-6

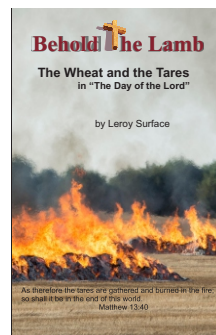
Finally, where is the "believer" who actually believes what the scriptures say about Christ dying to make us free from sin?

Romans 6:22: "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.."

FREE BOOK OFFER

The Wheat and the Tares

in "The Day of the Lord"



On the day of Pentecost, Jesus Christ planted a glorious church, which he called the "wheat." Before a half century had passed Satan began to sow tares in among the wheat. Both have grown together for almost two-thousand years, but we are fast approaching the hour of harvest. The tares will be burnt, but the wheat will be harvested. All of us need to understand what causes a person to be a "tare," and more importantly what is "The Truth" that produces the "Wheat." Order your free copy today!

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