

## The Saving Work of Christ – Part Three

By

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Three men were brought to mount Calvary to be crucified. Two because of the bad lives they had lived and the crimes they had committed (Matt. 27:16; Lk. 23:25). They deserved this death and suffering as violators of the law of the land. But one was brought there to be crucified who had done no wrong. In fact He was there unlawfully as Pilate himself indicated when he declared “I find no fault in this man” (Jn. 19:4, 6). Jesus was there because He was sinless and without any fault. There was no sin in this man nor any crime committed against government or man.

Jesus was there because of his sinless life, the miracles He performed and the content of His messages and teachings. He was hated by the religious leaders who saw Him as competition. The multitudes were following Jesus and listening intently to his message and the religious leaders were afraid of being replaced as the spiritual leaders of the Jewish people. So because of their hatred and jealousy they declared lies about Jesus, charging Him with crimes that he had never committed and in the process they moved the crowd to join them to cry for his crucifixion.

Yes Jesus died because he was so good, no other man was ever as good as he nor has there been any after Him. Jesus was unique, the only one of his kind (Jn. 1:18; 3:16). He is the only human of whom it can be said that He was sinless, perfect and without any fault before God. And that is why he was there to die on Calvary. Jesus is God the father's one and only (one of a kind) son. He is approved of God, always obedient to the Father, consistently doing the Father's will.

Yes he was here because of who he is. He is the second Adam of spoken of in I Corinthians 15:21-22, 45-49 and Romans 5:12-21. God the Father's remedy for the sin of mankind, the perfect sinless man who was going to die for the sins of every man, woman, and child of all time. The law of God demanded that in order for any man to be rescued from hell there must be found a sinless, perfect human Who could and would die in his place, paying the penalty for his sins.

Dear friend, Jesus is here by God the Father's plan and appointment. He is the Lamb of God who can and who will take away the sin of man.

Jn 1:29-30, “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” NKJV

The Bible declares it was the plan of God for Jesus to die the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:8-9, “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” NKJV

This statement is important because in the Old Testament God the Father declared a curse upon the one who would die on the cross, and this was pronounced many years before man had invited the evil practice of crucifixion.

Gal 3:13-14, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”)” (Deut. 21:23) NKJV

In Stroudsburg, Pa. one can find the grave of a celebrated soldier. The stone bears witness to these

words, "Abraham Lincoln's substitute. Ad midst the anguish of the conflict of America's tragic Civil War, the President had chosen to honor this man as his representative, making him a symbol of the fact that those who perished in the battle were dying that others might live." Jesus Christ is our substitute, Who chose to die in our place and by giving Himself over into the Father's hand to endure the holy wrath of God that we deserve. Yes he took that beating by the hand of God the Father in my place and your place as well. All of this because of how much he loved us.

Sir James Y. Simpson, a famous physician, once gave this testimony. "When I was a boy at school, I saw a man tied to a cart and dragged before the people's eyes through the streets of my native town, his back torn and bleeding from the lash. All of this for only one offense. Did anyone in the town offer to divide those lashes with him? NO! While a student at the university I saw a man brought out of prison to die. Thousands of eager eyes were upon him as he came out of that jail in a hushed silence. Did any man or friend come out and say, put that rope around my neck, I will die for him? NO! And all of that for one offense. He had stolen a parcel containing a large sum of money. Then I saw a sinner, standing on the brink of ruin, condemned to eternal punishment for sins. For just one sin? NO! But for many grievous sins committed against the unchanging laws of God. Then I looked and saw Jesus Christ who became my substitute. He bore in his own body on the cross all the punishment for my sins. Jesus suffered the JUST for the unjust that he might bring me to God. I trust you have acted as Dr. Simpson did...receiving Jesus as payment in full for all of your sins.