**"THE DEATH OF JESUS AND THE REASON MOST OFTEN OVERLOOKED?"**

**SCRIPTURE READING….**

***4Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.5But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.6All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

Movies like Mel Gibson's **"The Passion Of The Christ"** generated much controversy.

Regarding possible anti-Semitism where many Jews were highly offended by its content.

Regarding graphic showing of the scourging and crucifixion to a level of beyond recognition.

Sometimes the controversy centered around the reason Jesus died...so some questions need to be answered.

Was His death accidental, or was it an unintended consequence of His teachings?

Was it God's will, recognized and accepted by Jesus in advance?

Beloved the gospel message is quite clear as to why Jesus died for us, yet there is a reason that is often overlooked.

So let's review the Biblical answer to the question...]

**I. WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS?**

1. **HE DIED TO ATONE FOR OUR SINS...**

This is the fundamental theme of the Gospel –

[***1Co 15:1-3***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Co%2015.1-3) ***Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;2By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.3For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;***

2. His suffering for our sins was foretold –

***Isaiah 53:4-6 surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.5But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.6All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

 3. He was the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world –

[***John 1:29***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%201.29)***29The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.***

 4. In love, God offered Him as the propitiation for our sins

[**1Jn 4:9-10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Jn%204.9-10)**9*In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.10Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.***

 5. Through such suffering, to reconcile us back to God –

[***1Pe 3:18***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Pe%203.18)***18For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:***

 6. Providing redemption from sin through His precious blood –

[***1 Peter 1:18-19***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Pe%201.18-19)***18Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;19But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:***

  **His death was no accident, but part of God's predetermined plan**

[***Ac 2:22-23***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%202.22-23)***22Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:23Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:***

***But one reason most often overlooked by many who have accepted Christ is this…….***

1. **HE DIED THAT WE MIGHT DIE TO SIN...**

I consider this the reason that is often overlooked concerning His death ….

Yet it is clearly stated by Peter –

[***1Pe 2:24***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Pe%202.24)***24Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.***

 a. He died for our sins that we might die to sin.

He died for our sins that we might live for righteousness

He died that we might die! And so we read such statements as:

1. "if we died with Him..."

[***2Ti 2:11***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Ti%202.11)***11It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:***

1. "If with Christ you died..." –
2. ***20Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,"For you have died...***" –

[***Col 3:3***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%203.3)***3For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God***

1. "I have been crucified with Christ..." –

[***Ga 2:20***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%202.20)***20I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.***

 **-- Jesus died, not only to atone for sin, but to provide a means whereby we can die with Him to sin, and thereby live for righteousness –**

[**1Pe 2:24**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Pe%202.24) **HE DIED FOR OUR SINS THAT WE MIGHT DIE TO SIN**

**[Unless we also 'die to sin', has Jesus' death on the cross fully accomplished its purpose? He died for our sins, but have we died to sin?**

**In other words..**.

**II. HAS JESUS DIED FOR YOU IN VAIN?**

1. **HAVE YOU DIED TO SIN...?**

 1. When does God view you as...

 a. Dying with Christ?

 b. Being crucified with Christ?

 c. Being united with Christ in His death?

 c. Dead to sin?

 2. Paul makes it very clear: **when we were baptized!**

So then in writing to Christians who had died to sin –

[**Ro 6:1-2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.1-2) ***What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?2God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?***

 b. Reminding them concerning their baptism into Christ...

1. He reminds them that they were baptized into His death –

[***Ro 6:3***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.3)***3Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?***

 2) They were buried with Him through baptism into death –

[***Ro 6:4***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.4)***4Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.***

 3) Their old man was crucified with Him –

[***Ro 6:6***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.6)***6Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.***

 4) Their death freed them from sin, enabling them to live with Christ –

[***Ro 6:7-8***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.7-8)***7For he that is dead is freed from sin.8Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him***

 5) They should therefore consider themselves dead to sin

[***Ro 6:11***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.11)***11Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

 **-- If we have not yet been baptized into Christ, then we have not**

 **yet died to sin!**

1. **ARE YOU LIVING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS...?**

That is why you died to sin .

[***1Pe 2:24***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Pe%202.24)***24Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.***

That you might be alive to God –

[***Ro 6:11***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.11)***11Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

That you might not let sin reign anymore –

[***Ro 6:12***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.12)***12Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.***

That you might present your members as instruments of righteousness –

[***Ro 6:13***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.13)***13Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.***

That you might become slaves of righteousness – no longer slaves to sin

[***Ro 6:16-18***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.16-18)***16Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?17But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.18Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.***

Having died to sin, we are to mortify (kill) the flesh

Aided by the Spirit of God –

[***Ro 8:13***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%208.13)***3For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.***

[***Ep 3:16***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%203.16)***16That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;***

Seeking to bring the flesh under subjection –

[***1Co 9:27***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Co%209.27)***27But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway . as in …( do as I say, but don’t do as I do !!)***

Abstaining from fleshly lusts –

[***1Pe 2:11***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Pe%202.11)***11Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;***

Putting to death (i.e., putting off) the sinful deeds of the flesh –

[***Col 3:5-9***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%203.5-9)***5Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:6For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:7In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.8But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.***

Having died to sin, we are to live for righteousness

Putting on the new man, renewed in the image of Christ –

[***Ep 4:22-32***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%204.22-32)***22That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;23And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;24And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.25Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.26Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:27Neither give place to the devil.28Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.29Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.30And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.31Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:32And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.***

Growing in the true knowledge of Christ - cf.

[***2Pe 1:5-9***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Pe%201.5-9)***5And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;6And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;7And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.8For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.9But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.***

How serious are we in this effort? As evidenced by:

Our willingness to learn and grow in the knowledge of Christ? –

[***2Pe 3:18***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Pe%203.18)***18But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.***

Our efforts to put off sin and put on Christ in our lives?

 -

[***Ro 13:13-14***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2013.13-14)***13Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.14But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.***

**-- If we are not diligent in putting off sin and putting on Christ, then His death for us was in vain!**

**CONCLUSION**

1. When we consider the death of Jesus on the cross...

 a. We should not just think of His death as an atonement for our sins

 b. But also providing the means whereby we might die to sin and live

 for righteousness

2. The grace of God in Jesus is not complete until we are living as we

 should...

 a. Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, living soberly,

 righteously, and godly –

[***Tit 2:11-12***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Tit%202.11-12)***11For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,12Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;***

 b. Redeemed from every lawless deed, purified and zealous for good

 works –

[***Tit 2:13-14***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Tit%202.13-14)***11For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,12Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;***

Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh

[***Ga 5:24***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%205.24)***24And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.***

[***Ro 6:6***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.6)***). 6Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.***

**Are you Christ's...?**