

THERE IS METHOD AND REASON TO HOW JESUS DEFEATED SIN, DEATH, AND SATAN

Three hours of darkness declares to all the world that Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God, was unjustly condemned, tortured, and crucified. The greatest condemnation of sin is evident at the cross. The Father sends the Son and sin kills Him. Sin did its worst. The God-Man, Jesus Christ, gave Himself to die in order to condemn sin. The humanity of Jesus Christ felt the crushing blows of sin. Jesus knew Psalm 22. Even though it felt to His human body like that He was forsaken, Jesus knew from Psalm 22:24 that He was not forsaken. God did not turn His back on Jesus. God kept vigilance over the cross not allowing even one of His bones to be broken. God was in Christ on the cross, but God cannot be hurt. The human side of Jesus was hurt. He bore the unjust torment and torture of sin against Him. Jesus died sinless and His uniquely unjust death condemned sin to ultimate destruction. Jesus' sinless death satisfied the just demands of God's holy condemnation and judgment of sin. Jesus, the Second Adam, gained the judicial right to remove sin and death from all of creation. The wrath of God is never appeased toward sin and sinner. The sinner must be changed and reconciled to God. This is the power of God unto salvation. The saved sinner has been born again to new life in Christ. Sin is ultimately removed from the believer through sanctification and physical death. Sin and death are ultimately removed from all creation. Jesus truly came to take away the sin of the world. The believer enters heaven complete in Christ, having no condemnation, having been moved out from under the wrath of God, and having escaped the penalty of sin. There is no penalty for sinlessness and righteousness.

INDIVIDUALS CAN ESCAPE GOD'S WRATH TOWARD SIN AND ESCAPE THE PENALTY OF SIN

Since God doesn't change His attitude toward sin, how can a man escape God's wrath toward sin? His sin must be taken away. The man must change. He must believe upon Jesus for sin removal and for being made righteous. There is no wrath of God against the righteous.

Since God doesn't change, since the penalty of sin is eternal separation from God, how can a man escape the penalty of sin? The man must be changed. The man must become righteous. There is no penalty for righteousness. How does a man become righteous? He must believe upon Jesus for sin removal and for being made righteous. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You must be born again. In Christ, a man is a new creation. "In Christ", is a new position of righteousness. God sees the end from the beginning. Righteousness is credited to the believer because God sees him complete in Christ Jesus.

The penalty of sin cannot be paid. The penalty of sin is eternal. A man must be changed. A man must be removed from sin and thus be removed from the wrath of God. A man must be removed from sin and be made righteous. There is no penalty for righteousness. God has been declaring men righteous through faith in Him since Adam.

Salvation involves a new position, a new experience, and a new mindset. “New position” is being declared righteous. “New experience” is being made righteous. “New mindset” is learning to let the Spirit of Christ control the new life.

THE NEW EXPERIENCE OF BEING MADE RIGHTEOUS

God uses our own personal sin to convict, discipline, and teach us about holiness, love, and grace. It is true that we are sinners by nature, but we should avoid ever thinking that God excuses our sin. God knows that sin hurts us and His intent is to save us from our sins. By following Jesus, a believer has opportunity to experience a decrease in sin’s destructiveness and to experience more holiness, love, and grace by the power of the Spirit who lives in us. It is true that no believer can live without sin as long as we are in our sinful flesh, but we should never excuse our sin.

1 John 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

When we exhibit a lifestyle of recognizing our sin and desiring our sin to be removed, God works in our mind and heart to cleanse us of sin’s damage and restore us to fellowship in His Spirit.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

If we excuse our wayward mind and say we do not sin, we don’t experience the cleansing of our minds and the refreshing of our spirit by the Spirit of God.

1 John 1:10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is; His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Ephesians 4:21-24 Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life,

to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Putting off the old self and putting on the new self is the continual process of being made righteous.

Sin, death, salvation, and suffering is the only Way by which the glory and the love of God can be experienced in us. It is the only Way by which the fruit of the Spirit can be experienced in us. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are experienced in the presence of evil. God has decreed the only perfect way by which we can experience the fullness of God and this way is in a world containing sin and evil, death and suffering.

Evil works out for good in the life of the believer.

In all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28