

FUNDAMENTAL LIST – 4 of 7
Jesus Died For Your Sin To Reconcile You To God
August 25, 2024

INTRODUCTION So today I would like to begin with a question. Why can't the Christian God just forgive and forget? Why did somebody have to die for somebody else's sins?

There's a first century creed. It's older than any of the gospels. It's older than any of the Apostle Paul's letters. It was created in the first weeks of Christianity.

This is the English version of a Greek creed. There's a little bit of a rhythm to it so that people could memorize it easily.

Here's, here's how it would sound in English. Christ died for our sins and was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day and was seen. Christ died for our sins and was buried.

They created these creeds. Christ died for our sins and was buried. He was raised on the third day, and he was seen. This just makes the point that this is fundamental. This is like core of Christianity, and they believe this early.

But why doesn't God just forgive everybody? Why did God allow his son to be killed?

The answer is, that our sin earned us punishment and Jesus took our punishment for us.

The question we're asking in this series is,

WHAT MUST WE BELIEVE IN ORDER TO BE A FAITHFUL FOLLOWER OF JESUS?

So far, we have discovered several essentials.

NUMBER ONE: JESUS IS GOD'S SON AND OUR KING.

Because he said that about himself.

NUMBER TWO: JESUS CAME TO ILLUSTRATE AND DEMONSTRATE WHAT GOD IS LIKE.

He said, if you've seen me, you've seen the Father.

NUMBER THREE: JESUS DEFINED SIN AS ANYTHING THAT HARMS YOU OR OTHERS.

Anything that harms you or others, is a sin.

And then today is the least surprising, but perhaps the most perplexing.

NUMBER FOUR: JESUS DIED FOR YOUR SIN TO RECONCILE YOU TO GOD.

Saul of Tarsus, or the apostle Paul, became a Jesus follower four to five years after the resurrection.

Here's what he said in 1 Corinthians 15:1-7, *¹Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.*

²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:

The reason they created creeds is because there was nothing to read. There was no Christian literature. The gospels hadn't been written. And most people couldn't read anyway. Only about 15% of people who lived in large cities could read.

So, they created theology around these creeds. So, the apostle Paul takes this creed and includes it in this letter to the Christians living in ancient Corinth.

This is one of the reasons that we believe that Jesus actually rose from the dead because this creed was so early.

In fact, the fact that this creed already existed and it was circulating, it was evidence of the fact that the early Christians believed and embraced the idea of Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection.

So, Paul tells us what is fundamental.

Here's what he says in verse 3-4, *³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried,*

Do you know why they included “**and was buried**”? Because that's how you know someone's dead.

And their point is, when Jesus died, he didn't just pass out. Part of the gospel is he died for our sin, and they buried him. He was dead.

Then he goes on says, *⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared...*

Now remember the apostle Paul has been in and out of Jerusalem several times. He knows Peter, John, and James, the brother of Jesus.

They've had conversations. These conversations are recorded in the New Testament. Listen to what the apostle Paul writes to these Christians in Corinth,

that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

Paul is saying there are hundreds of men and women in Jerusalem right now who saw the resurrected rabbi from Nazareth. Over 500 people saw him at the same time.

⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

See James doesn't follow Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. James thought his brother was crazy. What would your brother have to do to convince you he's the son of God.

He is the son of God and James is a normal guy. And then James, the brother of Jesus, sees his resurrected brother.

And he calls his brother his Lord. He appeared to James and then to all the apostles. So, the point is, this is essential. This is fundamental.

Christ died for our sins. He was buried. He was raised on the third day and was seen. Christ died for your sins.

So that's what the first century church taught. They taught it immediately. But why did he have to die? Why couldn't Jesus just get up and announce forgiveness to everyone?

So following Jesus isn't blind faith, it's a step in the direction of an informed faith, because of the resurrection.

If Jesus came to explain what God is like, and if God says that my sin separates me from him, then I can accept that as true.

And Jesus has offered me forgiveness. And if he says it required his death to pay for my sin, who am I to argue with that? He's offered me forgiveness. I'll take it whether I understand it or not.

So, the Apostle Paul writes this letter and explains why God had to invite his son to die for your sin. Here's how he explains it. It's a little bit theological, but it's so powerful.

And he talks about that in Romans 3:20, *²⁰Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.*

You are conscious of your sin. And being conscious of your sin is because you know the rules externally or internally. But knowing the rules and keeping the rules doesn't make you right with God.

It just reminds you that you're a rule breaker. You can't work your way into a good relationship with God. Right?

Then he says this in verse 22, *²²There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

There's no difference. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. And that's the bad news. Here's the good news, he says. And just this all fall short because all have sinned,

²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

This means all are made righteous, put back on a level playing field relationally with God freely by his grace, not through doing good things, or even being true to your own conscience.

God's going to redeem the sinners and get the sinners back into a relationship with him. Through the redemption, that came by King Jesus.

God sacrificed his king willingly so that I could be made right with God? This is why it's called good news. And God gets better.

²⁵God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.

See, the question isn't can we explain it well?

The question is, are you going to wait till you understand it? He says that we receive by faith. The question is, have you done this?

And then he keeps going, *He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—*

God was patient with the sin of every human being who had ever been born until he sent his son to pay for their sin in the past, our sin and the future.

This next part, it's amazing. ²⁶*he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, ...*

He did it at this present time *so as to be just*, because he calls us to account. You're a sinner. You fall short. He has to point out injustice in us.

He's both the justice's beautiful language, ²⁶*...so as to be just, and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.*

He says, I'm going to call you out, because you're a sinner and then I'm going to deal with it myself.

❶Because of His justice, He demands payment. **❷**Because of His mercy, He delayed payment. **❸**Because of His grace, He made the payment himself.

I'm going to invite you to pray a prayer with me. The prayer is just a way of saying to God, I want to do this. I am definitely a sinner. You're the justifier. I can't do it myself.

Heavenly Father, I've sinned. I fallen short of your standard of right living. My sin created a debt I cannot pay. I believe Jesus' death paid my sin debt. I'm placing my trust in him as savior forgiver Lord.

Thank you for sending Jesus as our savior. Thank you for demonstrating your power by raising Him from the dead, eliminating any question we might have regarding his authority. And we pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE END