Christian Doctrine
Salvation (Part 2)
God's Solution to Our Problem

God's Marvelous Plan

Mankind was guilty of sin and deserving of God's wrath. However, God had a plan that would forever change the course of history. In an overwhelming display of His <u>love</u> and <u>grace</u>, God sent His own Son to take on the sins of the whole world. Jesus Christ, the perfect and sinless <u>lamb</u>, became our <u>sacrifice</u>, hanging on a cross and enduring the wrath and punishment only we deserved. Placed in a tomb and rising three days later, we see story of God unfold as He <u>rescued</u> His creation. (John 3:16-17; Rom. 5:6-11, 15-16; I Cor. 15:1-4; I Pet. 2:24; 3:18)

The Wonder of the Cross

The work of Christ on the cross provides salvation for mankind by accomplishing several necessary things:

➢ <u>Substitution</u> for sinners: Christ suffered as our substitute. He took our place, paying for our sins so that we would not have to. (II Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 3:18; Gal. 3:13)
➢ <u>Redemption</u> from sin: Christ paid the ransom (or price) required to free us from sin. Blood was required; Christ paid that price in full. (I Cor. 6:20; I Pet. 1:18-19)
➢ <u>Propitiation</u> toward God: Christ's death satisfied God's wrath against sin. God's wrath was put on His Son, therefore removing it from us. (Rom. 3:25; I John 4:10)
➢ <u>Reconciliation</u> to God: Christ's work took us from being enemies of God to being at peace and in fellowship with Him. (Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:20-22; II Cor. 5:18-21)

A Plan from Eternity Past

What makes Christ's death even more incredible is realizing that we were in God's mind from eternity past:

➢ God did not have to save mankind. It was His <u>desire</u> and <u>choice</u> to do so. (John 1:12-13; Eph. 1)
➢ God was not caught off guard by our sin. In fact, He had <u>determined</u> this plan of salvation before He even brought us into existence! (I Pet. 1:19-20; Eph. 1:4; 3:11)
➢ Jesus' death was not an accident or a mistake. It was the main <u>reason</u> He came to earth. (Matt. 16:21; Mark 10:45)