

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 love and grace, God sent His own Son to take on the sins of the whole world. Jesus Christ, the perfect and sinless lamb, became our sacrifice, 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 rescued 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:

- Substitution 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)
- Redemption 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)
- Propitiation 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)
- Reconciliation 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 desire and choice to do so. (John 1:12-13; Eph. 1)
- God was not caught off guard by our sin. In fact, He had determined 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 reason He came to earth. (Matt. 16:21; Mark 10:45)

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