



Sermon Series: The Cross of Christ, Part 1

Sermon Title: The Necessity of the Cross

Speaker/ Date: Scott McCrea, March 7, 2021

God planned to save to human beings, therefore - Jesus' death became absolutely necessary.

Big Idea: Christ's death on the cross is absolutely necessary for your salvation

Today we will look at two components that explain why that is

THE PERILOUS PROBLEM

The problem is sin. **Romans 3:23**. Sin started when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate from the tree that He told them not to eat from. They disobeyed and dishonored God, and sin rushed in and saturated all of creation. At that moment, Adam and Eve became sinful creatures. God told Adam and Eve that there are consequences to their disobedience - death Sin separated man from God and caused a rift in the perfect relationship that they had.

Adam and Eve's disobedience opened a doorway through which sin entered the world. **Sin is committing cosmic treason against god, who is holy and perfect.** God's holiness is the totality of all of His attributes. Holiness is a general term that represents all God's supreme perfection, and it means distinct, separate, or other. Nothing and no one in creation - including man who is created in the image of God that compares to God in essential nature. **1 Samuel 2:2**

God cannot act against his own character and nature, therefore He cannot merely **overlook** sin and brush it aside.

Justice demands that for all who sin, physical death and eternal spiritual death must occur. **2 Thess 1:8-9** No amount of good works will ever erase the charges against us. **Isaiah 64:6a**

THE PERFECT PLAN

Thankfully, scripture tells us there's more to God's nature than justice alone. God is equally infinitely loving. **Psalm 86:15, 1 John 4:8**

On the one hand, we have the justice of God, and on the other, we have the love of God it is on the cross where two seemingly irreconcilable attributes - meet. The love and justice of God were both causes for the cross. And it was a plan that God established before he even created the world. **1 Peter 1:18-20**

God's plan involved Jesus dying on the cross absorbing the wrath of God that we deserved **Romans 3:23-25**. The way the bible describes God's wrath is terrifying **Revelation 14:10**. On the cross, Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath for those who would come to believe in Him making it possible for God to show mercy to us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 and **Isaiah 53:6** tell us that God laid all of the sins of people throughout time placed upon him. This explains why Jesus was so troubled the night before he was to be crucified. **Matthew 26:39b**

He bore our sins. **1 Peter 3:18**

After Jesus died and was put in a tomb for three days, God raised Him from the dead, showing that the payment for our sins was acceptable. God's love and justice were satisfied on the cross. And as a result, **Romans 5:10 We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son**

Our familiarization with this account should not take away the sense of awe that should rightfully accompany this. Jesus absorbed the wrath of the Father so you could be declared righteous.

The only thing that will matter when we enter eternity is what each of us did with Jesus.

As sinners our default destination is hell – for all of eternity. Jesus describes it as everlasting unquenchable fire where there will be great weeping and gnashing of teeth. And it goes on forever and ever and ever, with no hope ever of escaping. It is absolute despair and hopelessness. It is the wrath of God laid out for all eternity. And Jesus came to save us from that. On the cross Jesus took the hell that you and I deserve because he loves you – God loves you.

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Did Jesus die for the sins of the whole world or for the sins of the elect only? Consider John 10:15, John 3:16, John 6:37-40
- In your own words, describe why there is not another way for God's love and His justice to be satisfied.
- Do you know any verses that describe the Holy Spirit's involvement in the crucifixion?
- Is seeing Jesus as savior more logical or emotional?
- How is Jesus the substitute for His followers even though He did not have to suffer eternally like we would have?

BIBLE VERSES

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

1 Samuel 2:2 - There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God

2 Thess 1:8-9 - He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might

Isaiah 64:6a - All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;

Psalms 86:15 - But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

1 John 4:8 - Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 Peter 1:18-20 - For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

Romans 3:23-25a - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness

Revelation 14:10 - they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever.

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

Romans 5:10 - We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son