

4-16-2011, COTR Texarkana

Title: Born to Die

Purpose: Declare Christ's death, motivated by His love for us, as the sole remedy for our sin and provoke people to love and follow Him.

Spiritual Truth: Jesus is God's solution for our sin.

Text: Lu 9:18-22

Topic: Easter, Sin, Universalism, Cross

Born to Die

I. Introduction

A. This is Passion Week or Holy Week... Christ's last week on earth before his death and resurrection from the grave. Jesus predicted the events of the last days of His life on earth.

1. Luke 9:18-22 (NLT) [Jesus asked His disciples a question]
²⁰ ... **"But who do you say I am?"** Peter replied, "You are the Messiah sent from God!"... ²² **"The Son of Man must suffer many terrible things,"** he said. **"He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead."**
2. "Messiah" or "Christ" means God's Chosen One to be the Savior of the world.
3. Why did Jesus have to suffer and endure a brutal beating and death?
4. Why didn't He call upon angels to deliver Him from the cross?
5. Today I'll tell you why. This message is the foundation of your faith.

B. Title: Born to Die

C. Purpose: Declare Christ's death, motivated by His love for us, as the sole remedy for our sin and provoke people to love and follow Him.

D. Spiritual Truth: Jesus is God's solution for our sin.

II. Are there many ways to get to heaven? Do all religions lead to God?

A. Time Magazine ran an internet article titled, "Is Hell Dead?" It highlighted a book that suggests everybody will go to heaven and nobody will go to hell. The doctrine is called "universalism" and presumes there are many ways to heaven.

B. World religions have different beliefs about salvation and how to get to heaven:

1. Buddhists believe salvation comes through reincarnation and good works.
2. Hindu's believe salvation comes by reincarnation, yoga and meditation until you become one with Brahman, (works).
3. Gnostics believe salvation is found through secret knowledge of the universe.
4. Islamists believe salvation comes through submitting to the will of Allah and living by the 5 pillars, (works).
5. Judaism believes salvation comes by obedience to the Law of Moses, (works).
6. Followers of Hare Krishna believe salvation comes by chanting, total devotion and obedience to Krishna, (works).
7. Followers of Confucius believe salvation comes from the way we treat people and making sacrifices, (works).
8. New Ager's believe salvation comes from reincarnation and karma, (works).
9. Christianity believes salvation comes from faith in the blood atonement of Jesus Christ, (grace). Rather than working to earn heaven, salvation is found in

accepting what Christ has done for us on the cross and following Him.

C. John 14:6 (ESV) ⁶ Jesus said..., “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**

1. Jesus said He was unique and the exclusive way to heaven. This is true or false.
2. The world says this is intolerant and close minded. Jesus said it as a statement of fact like the law of gravity. If you step off a tall building you will fall and die.

D. Who determines the way to heaven? Does each person get to choose how to get there or has God told us the way?

1. Illustrate: Suppose I ask you to call me on my cell phone. I give you the number but either you don’t like the set of numbers I gave you or you just get the sequence wrong. You may sincerely want to reach me. You may show deep fervor while pressing the wrong numbers. You may even connect but you won’t connect with me. Do you see the spiritual parallels?
2. Either Jesus gave us the number to bring us to God or He didn’t. I believe He did.

III. Why did Jesus die on the cross? (Summary of Christian view of salvation)

A. I’ll tell you why:

1. We have a problem we cannot solve on our own. It’s called sin. Sin separates us from God. It brings death and eternal judgment. We need help.
2. God in His love provided a singular solution for our sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus, and Jesus alone, dealt with sin in a way that was acceptable to God. He lived a perfect life and offered Himself as a sacrifice and substitute for our sins.

IV. God’s solution to the problem of sin:

A. The consequences of sin affect us all

1. Genesis 2:16-17 (NCV)[God speaks to Adam in the Garden of Eden]
¹⁶ The Lord God commanded him, “You may eat the fruit from any tree in the garden, ¹⁷ but you must not eat the fruit from the tree which gives the knowledge of good and evil. **If you ever eat fruit from that tree, you will die!”**
2. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought sin and its consequences into the world...pain, heartache, suffering and physical death. All evil in the world today started at that moment. Their sin affected every person on earth.

B. Sin separates us from the Presence of God

1. Genesis 3:23 (ESV) the Lord **God sent him out from the Garden of Eden...**
2. This was more than leaving their home. Face to face relationship with God was no more. The wall of sin separated them and us from God.
3. Exodus 26:31-34 (NLT)[This separation is pictured in the OT tabernacle]
4. ³¹ “For the inside of the Tabernacle, make a special **curtain ...**³³ **...This curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.** ³⁴ “Then put the Ark’s cover—the place of atonement—on top of the Ark of the Covenant inside the Most Holy Place.
5. Matthew 27:50-51 (NCV) [Jesus’ death removed the separation]
⁵⁰ But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice and died. ⁵¹ Then **the curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces**, from the top to the bottom.
 - a. Muhammad, Buddha, Confucius, Krishna, etc. didn’t do this.

C. God provided a temporary solution for sin (Let’s go back to the Garden of Eden)

1. Genesis 3:21 (NLT) the Lord God made clothing from **animal skins** for Adam...

2. He didn't get the skins from Dillards. An animal was killed to cover their body and cover their sin. It was a substitute for their own death for their sin.
3. It's as if we are in the ocean all alone treading water to survive. We can't survive unless someone throws us a life preserver. The sacrifice is our life preserver.

D. Sins are forgiven by the blood of an acceptable sacrifice

1. Leviticus 17:11 (NIV)[This is an incredible insight into the ways of God]
¹¹ For **the life of a creature is in the blood**, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is **the blood that makes atonement for one's life**.
2. Atonement means to restore the relationship between God and man through an acceptable sacrifice.
3. Hebrews 9:22 (NLT)...**without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness**.
 - a. This spiritual law makes Jesus Christ and Christianity different from every other religion.

E. The blood of a sacrifice is the only way to protect us judgment

1. Exodus 12:3-23 (NLT)[God is about to send judgment on Egypt]
2. ³ ...each family must choose a lamb...for a sacrifice...¹³ But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign... When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt...
3. John 1:29 (ESV)[Jesus was a God's perfect sacrifice]
²⁹ The next day he (*John the Baptist*) saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**"
4. Jesus was crucified during the Passover feast. The 1st Christian communion was celebrated by Jesus and His disciples after they ate the Passover meal.

F. This is what makes Christianity different from other religions

1. Jesus, and Jesus alone, dealt with sin in a way that was acceptable to God. He lived a perfect life and offered Himself as a sacrifice and substitute for our sins.

V. There is another reason Jesus went to the cross...He loved us and wants relationship with us forever

A. John 3:16 (ESV)¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

B. John 15:13 (NCV) ¹³ The greatest love a person can show is to die for his friends.

1. That's us. This is why Jesus died on the cross.
2. Movie John Q...Denzel Washington

VI. Communion

A. Video: The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ

B. Our response to the sacrifice Christ made for us:

1. Mark 12:28-30 (NIV)
²⁹ "**The most important *commandment*,**" answered Jesus, "**is this: ...³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.**"
2. If we love Him we'll surrender our life completely and follow Him. Love for God is more than a feeling. It is expressed in the choices we make each day.

VII. Response: Prayer & Souls

A. Forgiveness for sin is like a pardon from a government official. It can be accepted or rejected. In 1829 a man named George Wilson was convicted of robbing a federal payroll. He was sentenced to death by hanging. Before his execution he was pardoned by President Andrew Jackson. For some strange reason he refused the pardon and his case went to

the Supreme Court. The court said a pardon is only valid if it is accepted. If the intended person rejects it, the court has no power to force it on him. Spiritual //