



50 Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die¹

Part 12

Introduction:

This week we conclude the series by unpacking the following truths...

- 47. To Rescue Us From Final Judgment
- 48. To Gain His Joy and Ours
- 49. So That He Would Be Crowned with Glory and Honor
- 50. To Show That the Worst Evil Is Meant by God for Good

47. To Rescue Us From Final Judgment

- **To be rescued, you must be saved**

- Initially; reborn

- John 3:3 -- *Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*
- Ephesians 2:8 -- *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God*
- Romans 10:5-10 -- *For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*
- Saving faith is not mere intellectual agreement but deep inward trust in Christ at the core of one's being²

- Are being saved

- 1 Corinthians 1:18 -- *For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

- Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed

- Romans 13:11 -- *Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.*

1. John Piper, 2006, Desiring God Foundation, published by Crossway Books, Wheaton, IL

2. The Holy Bible: English Standard Version, study notes, 2001, Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL



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- **There is real judgment coming**
 - Hebrews 10:26-27 -- *For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.*
 - Matthew 3:7 -- *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 -- *and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,*
- **And it ain't pretty. John, the apostle of love, gives the most graphic picture of hell**
 - Revelation 14:9-11 -- *And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."*
- **Some dread (but not fear—we have confidence in the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice and our eternal security, sealed by the Holy Spirit and paid forward) about God's future wrath helps us, like the early church, appreciate the sweetness of the saving work of Christ.**
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:10 -- *and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*
- **When he saves us in the end, it is entirely on the basis of his blood.**
 - Hebrews 9:28 -- *so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

48. To Gain His Joy and Ours

- **Biblical Concept of Joy and Happiness**



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- Society tells us real joy is impossible if we are not always happy with our relationships and possessions. We tend to believe joy is something that happens to us, and so we often lack joy when things do not go our way.
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- Bobby McFarrin's "Don't Worry, Be Happy." Trite, perhaps. Has one thing in common with Scripture's teaching on joy: it expresses an imperative:
 - Philippians 4:4 -- *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.*
- Joy is a fruit of the Spirit
 - Galatians 5:22-23 -- *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*
 - It will be manifest in all believers. We have the Holy Spirit living within us, and we are therefore able to "rejoice in the Lord always". Joy is a choice.
- Christian joy does not deny the legitimacy of grief.
 - Jesus was a "man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3). It is not wrong to be sad. Sin creeps in when we are consistently despairing or hopeless.
 - We are fearfully and wonderfully made – we can be sad in one sense and joyful in another simultaneously. I grieve if my brother dies because I no longer have personal communion with him. But I can have a deep, abiding joy, for I know that death does not have the final word.
- **The road to joy is hard. Hebrews 12:2 ... who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,...**
- Joy set before Jesus had many levels
 - Reunion with his Father. Psalm 16:11 -- *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*
 - Triumph over sin. Hebrews 1:3 -- *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*
 - Divines rights restored. Hebrews 12:2 -- *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*
 - Surrounded by the praise of all the saints.
 - Luke 15:7 -- *Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*
 - Revelation 7:9-10 -- *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the*



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throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, [10] and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

○ **What about our joy? The connection**

- John 15:11 -- *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

○ **But the road will be hard for us too**

- John 16:33 -- *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*
- Matthew 10:24-25 -- *A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.*
- Luke 21:16-17 -- *You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake.*

○ **In the same way the hope of joy enabled Christ to endure the cross, our hope in joy empowers us to suffer with him.**

- Matthew 5:11-12 -- *"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

○ **What is that reward? To enjoy God with the very joy that the Son of God has in his Father.**

- Romans 8:18 -- *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*
- Psalm 30:5 -- *For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.*

49. So That He Would Be Crowned with Glory and Honor

John 17:5 -- *And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*



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Hebrews 2:9 -- *But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

Philippians 2:7-9 -- *but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,*

Revelation 5:11-13 -- *Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,*

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”*

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

*“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”*

- **How can Jesus be motivated to give us joy if he is motivated to get his glory? Seems contradictory, and self-seeking/ narcissistic.**
- Think about something awe inspiring wonderful--that gives you goose bumps in a good way. The joy of sheer wonder.
- If we are to be as joyful as we can be, we must see and savor the most glorious person of all, Jesus Christ himself. To love us, Jesus must seek the fullness of his glory and offer it to us for our enjoyment.
 - John 17:24 -- *Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*
- **Love is the labor—whatever the cost—of helping people be enthralled with what will satisfy them most, namely Jesus Christ.**



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50. To Show That the Worst Evil Is Meant by God for Good

- **Origin of evil? Another day...**
- **God uses evil, turning it to everlasting righteousness and joy**
 - Genesis 50:20 -- *As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*
 - 1 Samuel 8:19 -- *But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us,*
 - 1 Samuel 12:19 -- *And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king."*

From the line of these kings God brought Christ into the world. The sinless Savior had his earthly origin in sin as he came to save sinners.

- **Evil and suffering -- Christ's appointed way of victory over evil and suffering**
 - Every act of treachery and brutality against Jesus was sinful and evil. But God was in it.
 - Acts 2:23 -- *this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.*
 - Back lashings, thorn crown, spit on, bruised face, nails in wrists and feet, spear in his side, scorn of rulers, betrayal of his friend, desertion of his disciples—all result of sin designed by God to destroy the power of sin.
 - Acts 4:27-28 -- *for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.*
- **No greater sin – No greater suffering – No greater innocence**
 - No greater sin than to hate and kill the Son of God. No greater suffering nor any greater innocence than the suffering and innocence of Christ. Yet God was in it all.
 - Isaiah 53:10 -- *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief;*



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- Isaiah 53:5 -- *But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.*
- This is why Jesus came to die. God meant to show the world that there is no sin and no evil too great that God cannot bring from it everlasting righteousness and joy. The very suffering that we caused became the hope of our salvation.