



50 Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die

Part 1

Introduction

- At Christmas time, we Christians love to say stuff like “keep Christ is Christmas” and “Jesus is the reason for the season.” We do this because the world truly needs to be reminded that the holiday that they love to celebrate is really all about Jesus. In thinking about this I thought, what is it that Christians need to be reminded of during Christmas time? More specifically, what is it that we (Reformation Christian Fellowship) need to be reminded of this Christmas? I think it would be edifying for us to spend this Christmas season making the connection between the cradle and the cross. Jesus came into the world that very first Christmas, but simply appearing was not his purpose. He came to die and give His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28).
- So, we are going to go through the book *50 Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die*, by John Piper, together for the next several weeks. My hope for us is that our celebration of the birth of Jesus would be made much more deep and meaningful as we delve into the reason that he came.

1. Jesus came to absorb the wrath of God



The world is broken

- ❖ Romans 3:10-12--*None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.*



Wrath is due

- ❖ John 3:36--*whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*
- ❖ Romans 1:18--*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men,*



God's wrath is terrible

- This wrath is too often underestimated. We see in scripture that the love of God is too deep for the mind to comprehend (Ephesians 3:18-19), So to is the wrath of God. It is a fury too terrible to imagine. Yet we can see small glimpses of it in scripture...
 - ❖ Genesis 7:21-24--*And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. 22 Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. 23 He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth.*
 - ❖ Numbers 16:31-35--*31 And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. 32 And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. 33 So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. 34 And all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up! 35 And fire came out from the Lord and consumed the 250 men offering the incense.*
 - ❖ Ezekiel 9:4-6--*And the Lord said to him, Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it. 5 And to the others he said in my hearing, Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity. 6 Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women,*
 - ❖ Isaiah 13:6-16--*Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come! 7 Therefore all hands will be feeble, and every human heart will melt. 8 They will be dismayed: pangs and agony will seize them;*



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they will be in anguish like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at one another; their faces will be aflame. 9 Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. 11 I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. 12 I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir. 13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the Lord of hosts in the day of his fierce anger. 14 And like a hunted gazelle, or like sheep with none to gather them, each will turn to his own people, and each will flee to his own land. 15 Whoever is found will be thrust through, and whoever is caught will fall by the sword. 16 Their infants will be dashed in pieces before their eyes; their houses will be plundered and their wives ravished.

- This is just a taste of what we would have been doomed to endure had Jesus not come.

Jesus absorbs God's wrath for those who believe in Him

- Jesus is our propitiation (substitute). He bears the wrath of God in our place.
- ❖ Galatians 3:13--*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree*

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, remember that the baby in the manger came to absorb the wrath of God for us.

2. Jesus came to please His heavenly Father

- “Jesus did not wrestle his angry Father to the floor of heaven and take the whip out of his hand. He did not force him to be merciful to humanity. His death was not the begrudging consent of God to be lenient to sinners. No, what Jesus did when he suffered and died was the Father's idea. It was a breathtaking strategy, conceived even before creation, as God saw and planned the history of the world.¹”

God's plan to save is eternal

- ❖ Ephesians 1:4-10--*even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.*

The death of Jesus is God's eternal plan

- ❖ Isaiah 53:10--*10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief;*
- ❖ 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.*

The father is pleased by Jesus accomplishing His plan

¹ Ibid



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- The fact that Jesus loved us so much that he was willing to endure the wrath of God being poured out upon him is incredibly beautiful to God the Father. It is a perfect reflection of His own heart. This is why Paul says...
- ❖ Ephesians 5:2--*And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*
- 🕒 **As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, be mindful that God the Father was very pleased with Jesus' sacrifice.**

3. Jesus came to learn obedience and be perfected

- 🕒 **Jesus was made perfect through obedience and suffering**
 - ❖ Hebrews 2:10--*For it was fitting that he (God the Father), for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.*
 - ❖ Hebrews 5:8-9--*Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,*
- 🕒 **Wasn't Jesus already perfect?**
 - Absolutely! We must understand that "When it says that he was "made perfect through suffering," it doesn't mean that he was gradually getting rid of defects."²
 - Jesus has two natures, *divine* and *human*. His divine nature is eternal and perfect. The second person of the Trinity, the divine son, has always and will forever possess all of the attributes of God. However, his human nature is not eternal. At the incarnation, Jesus became a man for the first time ever. He was not born depraved like us, yet he had also not earned human righteousness. He had to live righteously as a real human that experienced real human pain, real human emotions, and real human thought. He had to endure real human temptation and not sin. He had to endure real human suffering and death. If he had not, his sacrifice would not have been acceptable. A righteous human has to die for the sins of depraved humanity. The human Jesus, learned obedience through what he suffered and his humanity earned perfection, or righteousness, because of it.
- 🕒 **As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, be mindful that the righteousness that Jesus imputes to you was earned through His obedience to suffering and death.**

4. Jesus came to achieve His own resurrection from the dead

- It is important for us to remember that Jesus didn't come just to die. Paul teaches us that...
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:17--*And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.*
- Jesus came to die and then be raised from the dead so that he could announce to the world...
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:55-57--*Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- This victorious resurrection was earned by Christ on the cross...

² Ibid



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- ❖ Hebrews 13:20--*Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,*
 - It was the blood of Jesus, his death on the cross, by which God raised Jesus from the grave.

5. Jesus came to show the wealth of God's love and grace toward sinners



- ❖ Romans 5:7-8--*For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
 - “The measure of God’s love for us is shown by two things. One is the degree of his sacrifice in saving us from the penalty of our sin. The other is the degree of unworthiness that we had when he saved us.³”



The preciousness of Jesus

- ❖ John 3:16-17--*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*
- In an effort to demonstrate the love of the Father, we pastors love to ask people “would you give your child to save another?” This can be somewhat helpful, yet, it is not really adequate. There are times when we are grumpy with our kids. There are times when we are disappointed in our kids. There are times when our kids do not do what they ought to. Our kids are broken sinful creatures like us therefore we cannot relate with the Father’s sacrifice. He gave a perfect son. One who had eternally brought him perfect joy, perfect delight, and pride. The Father and Jesus had a unity beyond comprehension. This is why Jesus says things like...
 - ❖ John 10:30--*I and the Father are one.*
 - ❖ John 14:9--*Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.*
- As much as we love our kids, we got nothing on the Father and Jesus. That sacrifice is truly beyond our ability to understand. It is massive. Yet, God gave Him for us.



The unworthiness of humanity

- ❖ Romans 3:10-18--*None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. 13 Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips. 14 Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness. 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known. 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.*
 - What makes Paul describe humanity like this? The fact that from the garden, humanity has continuously been faithless when God extends grace. (Garden, Noah, Babel, The Kings, Hosea, etc...)
 - The fact that God has even allowed humanity to continue existing is astounding. How much more astounding is this truth...

³ Ibid



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- ❖ Romans 5:7-8--*For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*



As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us recognize that his coming shows the unsearchably deep love of the Father for us.