

- **Man of Sorrows** ... [Heb1:1-3, 5:7-9](#) ... From the beginning of Mark's gospel to the end, runs this argument: **Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God** ... [Mar1:1, 11, 13, 15; 2:10-11; 3:11; 4:41; 8:29; 9:7; 10:45; 14:61-62; 15:39; 16:6](#) ... Mark shows this with haste, as we've said ... Jesus has been sent to accomplish the will of the Father, set forth before creation existed – before you and I existed, it was already determined that Christ would lay down His life, in our place and for our sins, to take the just punishment and wrath of God that we duly deserved
 - **Why?** Because of the original sin passed down to us from our parents, Adam and Eve – [Rom3:10,18,23; Eph2:1-3](#) ... Does this mean no one ever does good? Good things happen; nice people exist; it is nice to do good things ... But the standard of our goodness and niceness comes nowhere near the standard that God sets and calls us to attain – we can't do it; it's an unattainable standard, set by a perfect, holy, and just God ... Is this mean of Him? No; He is the Creator, and it's the standard by which He created everything ... Humanity rejected God's word, His authority, His standard, His protection, His presence, His love
 - We determined that being our own gods was far better than knowing and being known by the One who made us ... We determined that the bondage of sin was worth giving up our freedom – for at least we'd be masters of our own destiny ... **But that's the ploy of sin** – lead us to believe that we're in control, that we're in charge; all while Satan pulls our strings like a puppeteer ... Sin keeps us separated from our Creator, it distorts the image of God within us, it taints our understanding of God and ourselves, it gives Satan power over our lives, and it binds us to the penalties of sin ... The wages of sin is death ([Ro6:23](#)) – something has to stand and take the punishment due for sin ... It was either us or Someone else ... And God the Son said, "I'll do it", and thus Jesus came to take our place upon the cross ... [Owen, pg60-61](#)... [Is53:2-8](#)
- **At noon**, darkness had covered the entire area – this is a sign of God's judgment ... Being Passover, it may have sparked remembrance of the plagues of Egypt, in that the 9th Plague was darkness over the land ... Then the 10th Plague followed, the death of the firstborn Son, and how people were called to find salvation under the blood of the Lamb ... Supernatural things were occurring; things that were not ordinary ... During this time, Jesus cries out ([v34](#))
 - Much thought and argument has been given to these words of Christ ... I'm not sure humanity will ever fully comprehend the gravity of these words ... **Why is Jesus being forsaken?** ... [2Cor5:21](#) ... It's not an abstract verse, but a literal truth that was physically experienced by Jesus on the cross ... **Jesus became sin in all of its fullness**, and the full penalty of sin, and wrath against sin, was placed upon Him, so that He was actually forsaken and found guilty as a sinner in the eyes of God ... [Packer, pg47](#) ... [Duncan](#), "Do you know what Calvary was? It was damnation; and He took it lovingly" ... And this undergirded the entire life and mission of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God – **His unwavering love for the very ones that the Father had also set His heart upon** ... Not because any one of us did anything deserving of it; simply because He in a time past determined to set His affection on you and me, and then determined to bring us to faith and life in Jesus
 - Therefore, the wrath of God has been appeased / nullified by the atoning sacrifice of Christ for our sake ... **In Christ**, we will never again have the threat of wrath held against us ([1The1:10](#)) ... Instead of God forsaking us, Jesus was forsaken for us ... Because of this, being forsaken by God or forgotten by God should never be a fear that we in Christ should ever bear upon ourselves ... [Jo10:27-29](#) ... [Heb12:2](#) ... [Col2:14-15](#) ... We will face adversity in life – this is a guarantee, but God is no longer a foe against us; rather, He is a friend and a Father and a Savior and the Perfector of our faith ... Thus, He cries out ([v37-38](#))
- **The curtain** that is referenced is the curtain that separated the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies – the inner room where the Ark of the Covenant was kept, and the room no one was allowed but the High Priest, and only once a year ... God dwelled in the Holy of Holies, and no one was pure enough to enter His presence, unless they were anointed with animal blood once a year during the Day of Atonement ... [Heb9:12-14; 4:16](#) ... What did Jesus mean when He said, "It is finished"

- **The work of salvation is complete** ... [Heb10:10-18](#) ... We can neither add to nor subtract from the salvation that Jesus Christ has procured for us ... Jesus accomplished it, our only part is to receive it by faith ... This means that there is no fine print that God tries to pass by us – “you have to do ‘xyz’ in order to keep your salvation in good standing” ... [Our salvation rest solely in the finished and perfect work of Jesus \(10:14\)](#)

- **We stand justified before God** ... [Rom5:1-2, 18-19](#) ... When the Father looks upon us, He sees sons and daughters in Christ Jesus ... He does not see us as enemies or sinners, even though we continue to mess up day after day ... [The righteousness of Jesus has been imputed to us – counted as our very own](#) ... Jesus perfectly obeyed the Father not for His benefit but for ours, so that His obedient life and work could be applied to us, as He took upon Himself our failure and sin and rebellion and disobedience ([2Cor5:21](#)) ... No matter how hard we try, we can never improve on the righteousness that Christ freely gives us ... It is a gift that we receive by faith, not one that we earn or build upon ... [Because we stand at peace with God, so we are able to richly experience the peace of God](#)

- **We are redeemed and forgiven** – [Eph1:7](#), “**In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of God’s grace**” ... This forgiveness is a continual promise that is provided for us by Christ ([1Jo1:9](#)) ... We don’t confess in order to earn His forgiveness ... The forgiveness of Jesus has already been purchased and is waiting to be received by those who belong to Him, so we turn to Him as we are, with our mess ... And we keep turning to Him, we keep our eyes focused on Him ... We will never reach a point where we’ll never need to stop repenting – **repentance being turning towards Christ**, it’s “**an agreeing with God about our sin, and a standing with God against our sin**” ... Just like grace, there is no limit to God forgiving us – NONE! ... God will not kick out those He has obtained in Christ

- **There is no more barrier keeping us from God – the way has been open, and that way is through Jesus, and He says ([Mat11:28-30](#)) ... [This life finds itself sourced in position rather than performance](#), so that we live FROM a perfect and complete salvation, justified before God, redeemed and forgiven, and these realities (among others) should motivate us to follow and obey and trust and love Christ – **because He first loved us****

- The Lord says this in [Is55:1-2, 6-9](#) ... We do not come to the Father on our terms, but on His ... And His ways and His thoughts are far above our own ... He loves us more than we could ever love ourselves ... He pursues us to the greatest lengths and deepest parts ... **He is not afraid to go where we sit in the muck and where we hide in the dark** ... The Cross of Christ is the only proof we need for us to see this and trust this ... Only Jesus, the Messiah, Son of God, could accomplish and secure that which the Father predetermined and longs for us to receive and enjoy