

WHY DID JESUS DIE?

THE MEANING OF THE CROSS
AND GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION



HE LOVED US AND GAVE
HIMSELF FOR US.

EPHESIANS 5:2



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Introduction

The cross is the most recognized symbol in the world.

It appears on churches, jewelry, books, and monuments.

Yet many people do not fully understand what happened there.

Why was Jesus crucified?

Why did He suffer?

Why did He die?

Was He merely the victim of a political conspiracy?

Was His death an unfortunate tragedy?

Or was something much greater taking place?

The Bible teaches that the death of Jesus Christ was not an accident.

It was God's plan to save humanity.

1. GOD CREATED HUMANITY FOR RELATIONSHIP

From the beginning, God desired a relationship with mankind.

Genesis 1:27

"So God created man in his own image..."

Human beings were created to know God, love God, and walk with God.

That was God's original purpose.

2. SIN BROKE THAT RELATIONSHIP

The Bible teaches that sin entered the world through human rebellion.

Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Sin is more than breaking rules.

Sin is rebellion against God's authority.

Sin separates people from God.

Every person has sinned.

No one is exempt.

3. SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES

Many people ask:

"Why can't God simply overlook sin?"

The answer is found in God's nature.

God is loving.

But God is also holy and just.

Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death..."

Sin carries consequences.

Just as a judge cannot ignore crime without violating justice, God cannot ignore sin without violating His own righteous nature.

4. THE OLD TESTAMENT POINTED TO A SACRIFICE

Throughout the Old Testament, sacrifices were offered for sin.

Animals were placed upon altars.

Blood was shed.

These sacrifices taught an important lesson:
Sin is serious.

Hebrews 9:22

"Without shedding of blood is no remission."

Yet animal sacrifices could never permanently remove sin.

They pointed forward to something greater.

They pointed to Jesus.

5. JESUS BECAME OUR SACRIFICE

Jesus came for a specific purpose.

Matthew 20:28

"The Son of man came... to give his life a ransom for many."

Jesus lived a sinless life.

He committed no sin.

Yet He willingly took our place.

The innocent died for the guilty.

The righteous died for the unrighteous.

Isaiah 53:5

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities..."

The cross was not merely something done to Jesus.

It was something Jesus willingly endured for us.

6. THE CROSS REVEALS BOTH GOD'S JUSTICE AND GOD'S LOVE

At the cross we see two truths meeting together.

God's justice.

God's love.

God's justice demanded that sin be judged.

God's love desired that sinners be saved.
The cross satisfied both.

Romans 5:8

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that,
while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

The cross is the greatest demonstration of God's
love in human history.

7. JESUS PAID A DEBT WE COULD NOT PAY

Imagine owing a debt so large you could never
repay it.

Then someone else pays it in full.

That is what Jesus did.

Colossians 2:14

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that
was against us..."

The penalty we deserved was placed upon Him.

The forgiveness we could never earn is offered
through Him.

8. THE RESURRECTION PROVES THE SACRIFICE WAS ACCEPTED

If Jesus had remained in the grave, there would be
no proof His sacrifice was accepted.

But He rose again.

Romans 4:25

"Who was delivered for our offences, and was
raised again for our justification."

The resurrection is God's declaration that the price
has been paid.

Sin was defeated.

Death was defeated.
The grave was defeated.

9. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

Jesus did not die merely to create a religion.
He died to save people.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son..."

Because of His sacrifice:

- Sins can be forgiven
- Lives can be changed
- Hope can be restored
- Eternal life can be received

The cross is personal.

Jesus died for you.

Conclusion

Why did Jesus die?

Because sin separated humanity from God.

Because justice required a payment.

Because love provided one.

1 Peter 3:18

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God..."

The cross was not a tragedy.

It was a rescue mission.

And it remains the greatest expression of God's love the world has ever known.