



Part 3:
**The Purpose Of
THE PASSION**

Jesus: "The Son of Man came... to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

"I lay down my life... No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own accord." Jn 10:17

Why did He do it?

The most succinct explanation in the Bible: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood." Rom. 3:23,24

The Problem:

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." Romans 3:23

"sinned": Archery term meaning "_____"

"fall short": Athletic term meaning "_____ " in a race

The Solution:

"...and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood." Rom. 3:24

Three amazing results of Christ's sacrifice:

1. _____

"justified": _____

2. _____

"redemption": _____

3. _____

"atonement": in Hebrew *kippur*, as in *Yom Kippur* (see Rom 3:26)

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'" Matt. 26:26-28

"Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." Jn 19:30

"finished" Greek *tetelestai*: _____

The Application: So how do I receive all this?

"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe." Rom 3:21,22

It's a matter of _____, not _____!

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:6-8

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to spend some time each day this week meditating on today's topic!

This week's memory verse: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood." Rom. 3:23,24

Monday

Read back over your notes. Why do you think He chose a death as public, humiliating, and brutal as crucifixion?

____ So His sacrifice would be public

____ So we would know God understands suffering

____ So His death would be similar to the Passover sacrifice of lambs

____ So prophecies (like Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53) would be precisely fulfilled

____ Other:

Write down some things that stand out to you from the text and from the sermon.

Thank God for His love and mercy to you.

Tuesday

Read Romans 3:21-31. The key words in this section are justification, redemption, and atonement. Use an everyday example to illustrate them.

Justification:

Redemption:

Atonement:

How does your life in Christ illustrate the key words here?

Is it ever difficult for you to believe you can gain God's forgiveness by faith in Christ alone? Why?

Thank God for the truth of these verses. Ask Him for the faith to relax in His grace today.

Wednesday

Read Matt. 26:17-30. Here Jesus is eating Passover, The Feast of Unleavened Bread, with his disciples. If you'd like to read some background on this event, read Exodus 12:1-30. In what ways does Jesus' sacrifice parallel the Passover?

What does Communion mean to you?

Why do you think many Christians struggle with guilt if Jesus provides the forgiveness of sins?

How steadily do *you* know God's forgiveness of your sins?

Thank God for His forgiveness.

Thursday

Read Matt. 26:36-46. What's been your "Gethsemane"-- a place you really wrestled with God?

What do you learn from Jesus' example about praying in those times?

What does Jesus ask of God? How is this a model for our prayers?

Who would you want to "watch and pray" with you the next time you face a Gethsemane?

Bring to God the areas where you really want something different than what He is allowing. Pray your heart's desire, then add "nevertheless, not my will, but Yours be done."

Friday

Read John 19:28-37. Based on these verses and on other Scripture (such as John 3:14-16 and Romans 3:23-24), how would you explain the need for the crucifixion of Jesus to someone who really wanted to understand?

How did the meaning of Jesus' death become real to *you*? How has Jesus "blood" touched *your* life? What would your life be like without it?

Take at least five minutes to sit still and consider what Jesus did for you at the crucifixion: What He went through, and why. Thank Jesus today for His sacrifice-- prompted by His love for you!

Saturday

Today please finish any meditations you might have missed, and please pray for the Easter services this weekend. Pray about who you can invite! Thanks!!