

The Next Seven

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Volume 1 Number 17

Essential Doctrines of the Faith - The Vicarious Death of Christ

1 Christ is the Lamb of God Offered for Our Sin

Reading: Genesis 4:1-4; Exodus 12:1-13; John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7

2 Isaiah Predicts the Crucifixion

Reading: Isaiah 53:1-12; Cf. 1 Peter 2:24; John 1:29; 2 Corinthians 5:21

3 Matthew's Account of the Crucifixion

Reading: Matthew 27:1-66; Cf. Romans 5:6-11; 1 Peter 3:18

4 Mark's Account of the Crucifixion

Reading: Mark 15:1-47; Cf. John 10:11-18

5 Luke's Account of the Crucifixion

Reading: Luke 23:1-56; Cf. Hebrews 9:12-28

6 John's Account of the Crucifixion

Reading: John 19:1-42; Cf. Hebrews 10:1-18

7 Believers Are Redeemed by the Precious Blood of Christ

*Reading: Romans 3:24-26; Ephesians 1:1-7; Colossians 1:12-14; Hebrews 9:12;
1 Peter 1:18; Revelation 5:1-14*

Essential Doctrines of the Faith – Part Three

Lesson 13

Overview

We have carefully noted the essential truth that Jesus is the unique Son of God. Remember, the Christian confession that Jesus is the Son of God is a reference to his deity and is central to the doctrine of the trinity.

Jesus is truly God and truly man in one person. He is the eternal Word sent by the Father to tabernacle amongst us. He willingly came and took upon himself human nature for the purpose of dying for us (Hebrews 10:1-10).

Thus we come now to briefly consider his redemptive work on our behalf. Salvation is wrapped up in the *person* and *work* of the Lord Jesus Christ. In order to be saved we must confess him as the Lord and place our trust in his finished work on the cross as our sin bearer.

The Bible makes it very clear that Christ died *for* us. Jesus died as a substitute for us upon the cross. His death was a *vicarious death*. In reality the cross belonged to each of us as guilty sinners, but Jesus made our cross his own. The wrath of God destined for us subsequently fell upon Jesus as he satisfied God's just and holy wrath against all our sin.

Jesus died as the *just* for the *unjust* (1 Peter 3:18). As the Lamb of God he took away our sin by dying in our place. He bore our sins in his body on the tree (1 Peter 2:24a). By the grace of God he tasted death for every man (Heb. 2:9). Thus, we say Christ died a vicarious, substitutional death.

In so doing his great sacrifice provides a just and righteous means by which God can forgive those who repent and clear them of guilt in his sight. Furthermore,

the work of Christ upon the cross has freed the Father to declare all who believe upon his Son *righteous* (Romans 3:24-26; 4:1-25; 1 Cor. 1:30-31).

A genuine believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is justified by faith in Christ's work upon the cross on his behalf. Personal faith in the Savior results in the forgiveness of sin; reconciliation with God; the removal of guilt in God's sight (justification), the imputation of the righteousness of Christ (the believer possesses a right standing with God not predicated upon performance or works, rather as the result of receiving such as the free gift of God's grace predicated upon faith in the work of Christ upon the cross); adoption into the family of God; and the sealing presence of the Holy Spirit!

There is no salvation apart from the death of Christ upon the cross. His death on our behalf is the first half of the gospel. His bodily resurrection from the dead is the latter half. In order to be saved one must believe the gospel—the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ on our behalf (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Romans 10:9-13).

Key Passage this Week

- Hebrews 9:1-10:18

Key Verses

- Hebrews 10:12, 14

Activity

Using your Bible concordance see if you can find a passage of Scripture that corresponds with the following words all related to the death of Christ on our behalf and the salvation effected for us as a result:

Essential Doctrines of the Faith

Part Three

What do we mean when reference is made to the vicarious, substitutional death of Christ?

Romans 5:8: _____

1 Peter 2:24: _____

1 Peter 3:18: _____

Hebrews 2:9: _____

What do we mean when reference is made to the *atoning death* of Christ?

Leviticus 17:11: _____

Romans 5:9-11: _____

How did the death of Christ propitiate God?

1 John 2:1-2; 4:10: _____

Scripture: Hebrews 9:1-10:18; Hebrews 10:12, 14