

## EASTER EXAMINED

# CHRIST CRUCIFIED

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The cross and associated events are pivotal to the Christian faith as a witness of the redemption we have in Jesus. Not only does it serve as a reminder of what Jesus did for us but also provides the hope for our reconciliation with God.

*Therefore, since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from wrath through Him! For if, when we were enemies of God, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! Not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.* (Romans 5:9-11, NIV)

### Why The Cross?

Why was it necessary for Christ to die on the cross for us to be reconciled to God?

Gods character reveals why.

1. Love of God. (John 3:16; 1 John 4:7-10)
2. Justice of God. (Isaiah 30:18; 61:8; Psalm 33:5; Deuteronomy 32:4)
  - a) Sin in the world. (Romans 5:12; 3:23)
  - b) Sin leads to death. (Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:22)
  - c) Sin separates us from God. (Isaiah 59:1-2)
  - d) Sin needs atonement. (1 John 2:2; Hebrews 7:27; 9:28; Galatians 1:4, Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 2:1-9)

God loves us so much that he had to take steps to deliver us from the penalty of our sins because he is just. Jesus willingly chose to pay that price on our behalf as a sacrifice.

### So, What Happened?

- Jesus was mocked. (Matthew 27:27-31;38-44; Mark 15:16-20; 29-32; Luke 23:35-39; John 19:14-15)
- Jesus walked to his death. (Matthew 27:31; Mark 15:20; Luke 23:26-27; John 19:17)
- Jesus was crucified. (Matthew 27:2-33; 35; Mark 15:25-27; Luke 23:33; John 19:18; 31-33)
- Jesus died. (Matthew 27:34; 45-50; Mark 15:33-39; Luke 23:36-49; John 19:28-30)
- Jesus buried. (Matthew 27:57-66; Mark15:42; Luke 23:5-56; John 19:38-42)

### What Can We Learn?

1. We will face ridicule for our faith in God.
2. God requires full obedience to his will.
3. There is a burden to carrying our cross.
4. It's not too late to turn back to God.
5. The full extent and weight of the pain that sin causes are known by Jesus.

6. God's word will always be fulfilled completely.
7. There is provision even in suffering.
8. God loves us.

#### Conclusion

Jesus finished it all on the cross, setting us free from the grip of sin and making a way for us to be reunited with God for eternity. Whatever feeling you have because of sin be it shame, guilt, rejection, mocked, abandonment, agony, worry, loneliness and even separation from God, Jesus knows about them. That's why we can always come to him because he knows exactly how sin makes us feel and can intercede on our behalf.