

## LESSON 17

# Foundations Curriculum

## Jesus Died on the Cross

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### Introduction

#### Jesus Died on the Cross

In this seventeenth lesson, we will understand (and review) why the death of Jesus was necessary. What was the condition of man before God because of sin? How could man draw near to God again? What did the death of Jesus mean for us in relation to God the Father? We will examine, in the light of the Scriptures, the only solution offered by God as the remedy for sin and the consequences it brought.

### 1) Why Did God Require the Life of His Only Son?

*God is perfectly holy and perfectly just*

Everyone speaks of it, and even unbelievers know, that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. But there is no true spiritual revelation until we understand why this death was necessary. Why did God require the life of His only Son?

In order to know the love of God, it is necessary to know also His holiness and justice. God is perfectly holy and perfectly just. He cannot tolerate even what men would consider a “small mistake.”

His holiness is offended by every form of sin, and His justice demands punishment and retribution.

In Romans 1:18, this is made clear: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”

Such is God. Before God, all men have sinned and were condemned to death. All men walked in wrong paths; they were lost.

If the requirement is so great, and if only a completely perfect man would be capable of pleasing God, then who could please Him? Who would be fit for this?

Is there anyone who meets the conditions for such a thing? Could anyone in his right mind present himself as the solution, saying: “I am righteous, I have not sinned”? He would certainly be out of his mind for saying so.

### **1) What is the consequence of sin for the human race?**

The text of Romans 3:10 says: “There is none righteous, no, not one.” And Romans 3:23 says: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

If all have sinned, what is the consequence? The answer is found in Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death.”

This is eternal death, eternal punishment. Who is subject to this punishment? The entire human race!

When the Spirit of God convicts us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, then we understand how badly off we are before God, and how great our debt to Him is. This produces faith, fear, repentance, and gratitude.

We become aware of our guilt and we lose our peace. Only then do we begin to understand why Jesus died — why His death was necessary.

Jesus died to satisfy the justice of God and to appease His wrath. We deserved to be punished for our sin, but Jesus accepted to be punished in our place. He took on our debt; He sacrificed Himself in our stead.

In this way, God satisfied His justice and His wrath in Jesus. That is why, in the text of Isaiah 53:10, it says: “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him...”

What a strong, hard word — but in it we find how much God loved us, how much He loved the world.

### **2) How can one not surrender to the tremendous expression of love given by God?**

The text of Isaiah 53:5–6 says:

*“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”*

**Isaiah 53:5–6 (NKJV)**

If we are guilty before God, how can we have peace with Him? We have peace when we understand that Jesus paid our punishment!

Let us look again at Isaiah 53:5: “the chastisement for our peace was upon Him.” Jesus paid our debt. The certificate of debt was torn up! Hallelujah!

Therefore, now we can have peace with God.

This is written in Romans 5:1: “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

And in 2 Corinthians 5:21 it is written: “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Jesus died in our place, paying our debt and reconciling us with God. He brought us near to God the Father again. He gave us life once more. Blessed be the Lord!

## 2) The Broad Meaning of the Death of Jesus

### *The consequences of sin*

✓ **The first consequence of sin: man offended the holiness of God and provoked His wrath.**

We find this in Romans 1:18: “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”

✓ **The second consequence of sin: man is condemned to eternal punishment.**

The text of Romans 6:23 makes it clear: “...for the wages of sin is death.”

✓ **The third consequence of sin: man became a slave of Satan and of sin.**

*“...in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”*

**Ephesians 2:2–3 (NKJV)**

✓ **The fourth consequence of sin: man lost fellowship with God. He can no longer relate to Him.**

We see this in Isaiah 59:2: “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”

### **A summary of the consequences for reflection:**

- 1) Man offended the holiness of God and provoked His wrath;
- 2) Man is condemned;
- 3) Man became a slave of Satan and of sin;
- 4) Man lost fellowship with God.

The good news — which brings us hope and life — is that the death of Jesus was sufficient to bring the solution to the consequences of sin.

✓ **First: the death of Jesus was propitiatory**

*“...whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed.”*

**Romans 3:25 (NKJV)**

*“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”*

**Hebrews 2:17 (NKJV)**

Also in 1 John 2:2: “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

And in 1 John 4:10: “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Propitiation means that the death of Jesus on the cross was to satisfy the justice of God. His death was favorable to us. It does not mean that the wrath of God was eliminated, but that it was satisfied.

✓ **Second: the death of Jesus was a sacrifice**

Let us look at Hebrews 10:12: “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.”

This means that His death was substitutionary. That is, it took the place that would have been ours. His death prevented ours — like a swap of places.

*“...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed.”*

**1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV)**

*“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”*

**1 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)**

It was an exchange — the just One punished in the place of the unjust. This means that our punishment has already been paid by Him.

**Important note:**

*There is another aspect of the death of Jesus: the fact that we were included in His death. This subject will be addressed later when we speak about baptism.*

### ✓ **Third: the death of Jesus was redemptive**

Let us look at the text of Romans 3:24: "...being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

Also in Ephesians 1:7: "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

This means that He redeemed us.

*Galatians 3:13 states: "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')."*

A simpler way to understand this: He, who was not a slave of Satan, went to the "slave market" and set us free. He purchased us with His precious blood, taking the place of a slave at that moment.

Let us look at the text of Hebrews 2:14–15:

*"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."*

**Hebrews 2:14–15 (NKJV)**

Jesus purchased us by paying the price of ransom. And what was this price? His precious blood.

*"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."*

**Acts 20:28 (NKJV)**

*"And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.'"*

**Revelation 5:9 (NKJV)**

### ✓ **Fourth: the death of Jesus was reconciling**

*"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ*

*reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

*Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*

*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*

**2 Corinthians 5:18–21 (NKJV)**

*"And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight."*

**Colossians 1:21–22 (NKJV)**

To reconcile means to make peace, to bring about peace.

This means that, with the barriers removed (imposed by sin), man can now once again restore his relationship with God.

### **A summary:**

The death of Jesus was fully sufficient to bring the solution to the consequences of sin:

- 1) The death of Jesus was propitiatory;
- 2) The death of Jesus was a sacrifice;
- 3) The death of Jesus was redemptive;
- 4) The death of Jesus was reconciling.

Since there has already been propitiation (favor), sacrifice, and redemption, God now draws man back to Himself and causes man to enjoy His friendship and love once again.

**The death of Jesus is the only solution for sin and its consequences.**

## **CONCLUSION**

In this seventeenth lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we understood how God is perfectly holy and perfectly just, and how for Him no error, however small, can be tolerated. Sin offends His holiness, and therefore, when looking upon man and seeing him in sin — useless for His purpose — He required the death of Jesus as propitiation (favor) for man. We learned the meaning of the death of Jesus: His death was propitiatory; it was a sacrifice; it was redemptive (saving); and it was reconciling (the only solution to bring us near to God once again).

## **CONSIDER CAREFULLY**

- 01** Does my practical life demonstrate that I love Christ more than all?
- 02** Have I forsaken and do I continue forsaking all that I have?
- 03** Do I seek to know and practice the words of Christ?
- 04** Do I strive to love the brothers and sisters as Jesus loved?
- 05** Is it my way of life to manifest the fruit of the Spirit and to proclaim the Kingdom of God?

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

**Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)**

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