

"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross so that we might die to sin." 1 Pet. 2:24

"...our old self was crucified with Him... that our body of sin might be done away with..." Rom. 6:6

(see also Rom.4:25; 1 Pet. 3:18; Heb. 9:26-28, 10:10, 13:12, 2:17; Rom. 5:6-10, 5:15, 3:23-25; 1 Jn. 2:2, 3:5, 4:10; 2 Cor. 5:17-19; Eph. 2:11-16; Titus 2:14; Col. 1:22; 1 Tim. 2:5)

"by His doing you are in Jesus Christ" 1 Cor. 1:30.

5 Questions to Consider:

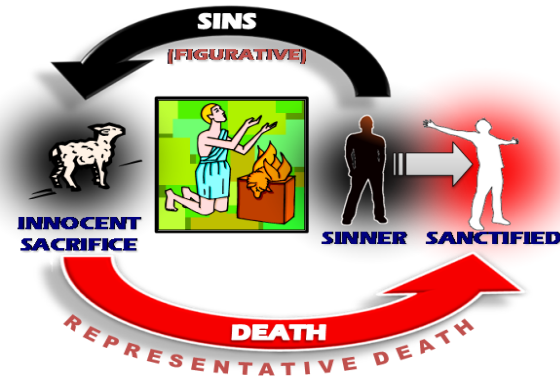
Circle one

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|---|--|---|---|
| 5 | Grace of God is shown in that He gives what we do not deserve—Life. | T | F |
| | - Mercy is shown by Him NOT giving us what we do deserve—Death. | T | F |
| | Lev. 17:11—In the O.T. did God provide a temporary means to remove sins through the blood of animals sacrifices? | Y | N |
| | • Was the sacrifice to be perfect, unblemished and pure? | Y | N |
| 6 | If one offered a sacrifice without a sincere heart [i.e.: tradition, superstition or ignorance] would it be accepted by God? | Y | N |
| | Heb. 11:6 Must our faith express belief and diligence in seeking Him? | Y | N |
| | • Has God always expected faithful obedience from the heart? | Y | N |
| | James 2:14-26 Is faith without action a living faith? | Y | N |
| | Rom. 10:17 Faith has nothing to do with the word of God. | T | F |
| 7 | John 1:29; 1Pet. 1:18 Was it God's plan for there to be a perfect, pure lamb without spot or blemish to be offered for all? | Y | N |
| | • Who was that lamb to be sacrificed? _____ | | |
| | • Was Jesus' crucifixion and sacrifice an accident? | Y | N |
| | • Was He innocent and pure? | Y | N |
| | Matt. 20:28 Did He become the true sacrificial lamb to remove man's sins? | Y | N |
| | 2Cor. 5:21 Did Jesus receive our sin to Himself so we might become righteous in Him? | Y | N |
| 8 | 1Pet. 2:24 Can we be freed from our sins if we choose NOT to die with Christ so our sins can be cleansed by His blood? | Y | N |
| | • If we make the choice to die with Christ, is our penalty of a judicial death forgiven through His sacrifice? | Y | N |

5 God's Love Provides Mercy

GRACE AND MERCY. God loves His creation enough to help pay this price, even though it was undeserved. This is called **GRACE** (God gives us what we don't deserve—life). He showed His **MERCY** (God doesn't give us what we do deserve—death) by having the price paid by an innocent representative. This was the purpose of animal sacrifice.

ANIMAL SACRIFICE. God made provision (or atonement) for sin by an innocent life. This is described in **Lev. 17:11**, *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement."* The life of the animal atones for, or cleanses, the sins of the sinner (**Lev. 16:30**). By removing sin, we are made holy (*sanctified*). As a result, the penalty or price of death is paid and removed (*justification*), we are declared *righteous*, and our spiritual relationship with a holy God is restored (*reconciliation*). Blood (which represents life) is the **ONLY** thing that will pay the price for, remove, or atone for sin (**Heb. 9:22**) - not good works, good beliefs, good morals, or good intentions! God does not have a blood lust—He just hates sin, and blood (life) represents the highest price possible by the guilty party!



ATONEMENT—According to the Plan of Redemption, the animals' deaths would represent Adam & Eve's deaths.

Notice some things we learn from animal sacrifice:

- the animal was innocent of sin—it was amoral, it couldn't sin. If an animal could have sinned it would have been liable for its own sin! Sinlessness was required for it to provide a representative death.
- the animal had to be perfect, spotless, unblemished, (see **Lev. 22:21-27**).
- man did not deserve to have a substitute die for him—this is **GRACE**—God gives what we don't deserve. It was not a gift we earned (**Eph 2:8**).

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6 Faith Responds

What made animal sacrifice work? It derived its power from the faith of the believers. The animal had to be killed—one couldn't just believe in animal sacrifice (**Heb. 9:22**), any more than believing in medicine will make one well!

Additionally, sacrificing without understanding *why*, would have been useless. Sacrifice derived no power from superstition, tradition, or ignorant obedience. **Heb. 11:6** defines genuine faith as having two elements—belief and action: “*without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*” **Obedience**, from the heart, is the type of faith that God has always desired. Here are some OT examples of this type of faith from **Heb. 11**:

FAITH ACTS

- “by **faith** Abel *offered* unto God a more excellent sacrifice”(vs.4).
- “by **faith** Noah[...]moved with fear, *prepared* an ark” (vs. 7).
- “by **faith** Abraham[...]obeyed[...]and *went* out” (vs. 8).
- “by **faith** Abraham[...]*offered* up Isaac” (vs. 17).

We see clearly that the kind of faith required by God is *belief-based action*. *Saving* faith has always required belief-based action. In the NT, James even asks rhetorically, “*Can such faith [without action] save a man?*” (**James 2:14**). James even points out that the devils themselves were all believers. If belief alone saved then the devils would be saved! (**James 2:14-26**). Also, the removal of sin by animal sacrifice was a gift, not something that was earned. If someone gives me a birthday check, I did not *earn* the gift because I endorsed the check and cashed it at the bank—I merely accepted the gift. When they sacrificed the animal they had done nothing to earn removal of sin, they were just accepting God's gracious gift. True faith is made

“So faith **comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God**” **Rom. 10:17**.

7 Jesus is God's Sacrificial Lamb

complete by obedience.

Several hundred years pass under the system of animal sacrifice. Then a climactic moment in history arrives. John is preaching, preparing the “way of the Lord.” As he sees Jesus approaching John makes an astounding public pronouncement that reverberates throughout history (**Jn. 1:29**),

“Behold, the **lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world!**”

There it is! The entire plan of redemption in one sentence. By proclaiming Jesus as “*the Lamb of God*,” John declared Jesus to be God's sacrifice to pay for the sins of humanity! “*You were not **redeemed** with perishable things like silver or gold [...], but with pre-*



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8 Jesus Paid the Price Owed by the Sinner

By living a sinless life Jesus qualified Himself as an innocent stand-in to die in the place of the truly guilty—you and me. When Jesus died on the cross He took our sins upon Himself and then paid the price owed by the sinner—death. Christ's death represents the death of the believer (**1 Pet. 2:24**). This role of Christ is summed up in **2 Cor. 5:21**, “*He made **Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf**, so that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**” In **Heb. 9:26-28**, “*He has been manifested to **put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself**...having been offered once **to bear the sins of many**...*”*

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth as a man, so that, as God and man, he could offer the perfect sacrifice, paying the price for our sins, reconciling man to God (**Eph. 2:13-16; 1 Cor. 6:20**). By dying *with* Christ, we can share His victory over death and have hope of eternal life.

cious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the **blood of Christ**” (**1 Peter 1:18**). Notice some important observations:

- **NO ACCIDENTAL DEATH.** Jesus' death was no accident or a failed mission to set up an earthly kingdom. It was His very purpose in coming to earth. His very purpose was to die, because a sacrifice must die.
- **AN INNOCENT SACRIFICE.** If Jesus had ever sinned, even once, then He could not have been the Lamb of God. He would have been liable for His sins and had the price of death on His head (**1 John 3:5**).
- **REMOVES SINS.** The result of being the “lamb of God” was that it would “take away the sin of the world.” Sacrifice (of life) removes sin.

Jesus came to die, to take the place of animal sacrifice to fulfill the OT (**Mt 5:17**). Jesus came “*to give His life a **ransom for many**”* (**Matthew 20:28**). “*...for this is My **blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins**”* (**Matthew 26:28**). “*You were **bought with a price**”* (**1 Cor. 7:23**). A price of death that Jesus paid. A payment that humanity did not deserve—such is grace.

Christ's suffering and death was prophesied clearly, vividly and specifically some 750 years earlier in **Isaiah 53**. Here is a sample:

v5-“*But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; [...]by His scourging we are healed.*”

v8-“*He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due”*

v12-“*He Himself bore the sin of many. And interceded for the transgressors.*”



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