

## Basic Christianity - The Great Purpose of Jesus Christ - Part 2 | 6/26/16

- Jesus came to proclaim God's mercy and to testify to the truth.
  - While Jesus was here in the flesh He told us how we can be saved from the death that we rightly deserve. He did not leave this a mystery that we would not be able to understand or know about.
    - John 18:37a
      - "You are a king then? Pilate asked. You say that I'm a king, Jesus replied. I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth..."
    - John 1:17
      - "for the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."
  - The TRUTH that Christ came to testify about is God's plan of redemption for humanity.
  - To show us that we are sinners and how we can become a Christian and receive eternal life which reveals the great mercy of God.
  - This was the truth that Jesus had for Pilate if He would have only listened.
- The forgiveness of sins required a perfect sacrifice, it required a payment.
  - Man had already been performing sacrifices to God for the forgiveness of sins, however these were only temporary.
    - Hebrews 9:6-7
      - "With these things set up this way, the priests enter the first room repeatedly, performing their ministry. But the high priest alone enters the second room, and he does that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance."
    - Hebrews 10:1-4
  - These temporary sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins have now been replaced with the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
    - Hebrews 9:26b
      - "...But now He has appeared one time, at the end of the ages, for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of Himself"
    - Romans 8:3-4
      - "What the law could not do since it was limited by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending His own Son in flesh like ours under sin's domain, and as a sin offering, in order that the law's requirement would be accomplished in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
      - **God the Son (trinity) came in the flesh as Jesus Christ to fulfill the requirements of the law, there had to be a payment for our sins. Jesus made that payment.**
  - The Law
    - The law was never intended to justify or bring righteousness to the sinner. The law brought knowledge of sin, it showed us when we were disobeying to God.
      - Romans 3:20
        - "For no one will be justified in His sight by the works of the law, because the knowledge of sin comes through the law."
    - The law showed that no one could live a life that perfectly obeyed God's laws, we are all sinners that are in need of a Savior.
    - It was however a guardian until Christ so that we could be justified through faith.
      - Galatians 3:23-25

- “Before this faith came, we were confined under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith was revealed. The law, then, was our guardian until Christ, so that we could be justified by faith. “
  - Paul tells us that if righteousness was truly through the law then Christ died for nothing.
    - Galatians 2:21
      - “I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.”
- Jesus erased our certificate of debt by nailing it to the cross.
  - 1 John 2:2
    - “He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.”
    - Propitiation –
      - To turn away the wrath of God through a sacrifice.
      - The propitiation of Christ restored the relationship between God and man damaged by sin.
  - Colossians 2:13-14
    - “And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him and forgave us all our trespasses. He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross.”
    - The obligations that we owe for our sins is eternal death, because we broke the laws of God.
    - This debt has been repaid and we are no longer obligated to repay it.
- **If we were to compare two ways that God could save us, one through obedience to the law and the other being the cross, why did God choose the cross?**
  - **What does the differences between the two say about how God thinks of us?**
  - **If you were in debt to the point of financial ruin and bankruptcy, but someone came in and paid that debt for you. Think of the relief, joy and gratitude that you would feel. Now think of the debt that we owe for our sin and its punishment of death. Knowing that Christ has paid that debt and its obligation, describe the relief, joy and gratitude that you feel.**
- We must have faith in Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross to be justified.
  - The work of Jesus on the cross is for all of humanity, but they must also have faith or believe in Him and what He did on the cross to receive salvation.
  - While Jesus died on the cross for the whole world, this does not mean that everyone immediately (without faith) will receive salvation.
  - **Jesus’s sacrifice on the cross paid the price and took down the barriers between God and man. Forgiveness, that brings justification upon the sinner, comes through faith which is our belief in Jesus Christ and what He did.**
    - Justification –
      - God shows His grace upon humanity through justification.
      - Justification is the opposite of condemnation
      - It is to be declared just (in right standing with God) through faith in Jesus Christ.
        - As if a judge in a courtroom declared one who was guilty on all counts to instead be innocent.
      - But if all are guilty how can we be made righteous?
        - Psalms 143:2

- “Enter not into judgement with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.”
  - Job 9:2
    - “Truly I know that it is so: but how can a man be in the right before God?”
- While we ourselves cannot on our own do anything to be made righteous on our own, **God showed us mercy and granted us the ability to be justified even though we are guilty through our faith in Christ.**
- **The one who has faith has been declared righteous (justified)**
  - **Romans 3:21-26**
    - **All have sinned but we are justified freely by the grace of God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.**
    - **Jesus took our sins to the cross then He bestowed upon us His righteousness (double imputation).**
- Our faith is vital to our salvation. We must truly believe in who Jesus Christ is if we are to be justified by God.
  - Without faith there is no justification and we will not be written in the lamb’s book of life.
    - Revelations 20:15
      - “And anyone not found written in the lamb’s book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”
  - Jesus spoke of this faith to receive life.
    - John 3:16
      - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
  - We are saved by God’s grace through faith. Faith is our “belief in Him”.
    - Ephesians 2:8
      - “For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift.”
  - Faith is to believe, trust and have confidence in Jesus Christ.
    - This is not just an intellectual knowledge of Jesus. It must come from the heart.
      - Romans 10:9
        - “If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”
- **God requires for us to have faith, why? Why is it so important to Him?**
- Faith/belief brings forgiveness of sins.
  - Acts 10:43
    - “All the prophets testify about Him that through His name everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins.”
  - 1 John 1:9
    - “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
  - If we are to truly confess our sins to God, it cannot be a weak or shallow confession where we are simply saying the words out of obligation.
  - To truly confess our sins to God it is because we feel the desire within our hearts because God is there showing us where we have sinned.

- This true confession happens because of God working within us.
- So important is the realization of our sins, that if we say that we have no sin then we do not have Christ.
  - 1 John 1:10
    - “If we say, we don’t have any sin, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”
- We can have great joy knowing that God desires for all to come to repentance.
  - The question of does God desire for us to come to faith is made pretty clear in Scriptures.
  - 2 Peter 3:9
    - “The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but **is patient with you**, not wanting any to perish **but all to come to repentance.**”
    - God does not just throw the book at us the first time we sin, He is patience and desires that we come to Him.
  - Romans 10:13
    - “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
    - This is a promise made by God that we should never forget.
- Having been justified by God this cannot be taken away. We cannot lose our salvation.
  - Scriptures teaches us that God will not remove our justification. Once it has been bestowed because of our faith and His Spirit is living within our hearts, He does not take it away the next time we sin.
    - Romans 8:1
      - “Therefore, no condemnation now exists for those in Christ Jesus, because of the Spirit’s law of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.”
  - He will never let us go.
    - John 6:37-40
      - “Everyone the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My will but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of Him who sent me: that I should lose none of those He has given Me but should raise them up on the last day. For this is the will of My father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”