

Did Jesus Christ Die in Vain?

INTRODUCTION:

1. To die is a sad thing, to die in vain is tragic. (Killed by drunk drivers)
2. Almost 2,000 years ago, Christ died outside the walls of Jerusalem.
 - A. We have prophecies of His death (Isa 53; Luk 23).
 - B. Christ's death, with His burial and resurrection, is the fact of the Christian religion.
1 Corinthians 15:1-4
3. Our question this morning is: **Did Christ die in vain?** The answer is yes, IF certain doctrines are true and certain conditions exist.

IF THE LAW IS BINDING - Christ Died in Vain!

1. When I speak of the law, I'm talking about the law of Moses. Many have insisted through the years that Christians are under the law.
 - A. Judaizers desired to remain under the law (Gal 4:21).
 - B. Colossian heretics (Gnostics) were binding the law (Col 2)
 - C. Many denominationalists believe that parts of the old law are just as valid for us today (*why only parts?*)

2. The law of Moses was annulled (done away with) by the death of Christ.

A. The scriptures teach that the law was abolished, nailed to the cross.

Colossians 2:14

B. The old law, ALL the old law (judicial, ceremonial and moral) was made invalid by Jesus' death. Two passages of scripture make this clear.

1) The law that was written and engraved on stones passed away.

2 Cor 3:7 But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away,

2) We are discharged from the old law.

Rom 7:6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

3. TRUTHS regarding Christ and the law.

A. Christ came to fulfill it.

Matt 5:17 Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

B. Christ came to redeem them that were under the law.

Galatians 4:4-11

C. The law was but a tutor to bring us to Christ.

Galatians 3:20-27

D. If righteousness is through the law, then Christ died in vain!

Gal 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then **Christ died in vain**.

IF THE CHURCH IS NON-ESSENTIAL: - Christ Died in Vain!

- 1. When I say “the church” I mean the church in which Christ said he would build in Matthew 16:18.**
- 2. Many today deny the necessity of the church and ridicule the emphasis that gospel preachers place upon it.**
 - A. Some say: “Preach Christ and not the church.” But whom does He save?**
 - B. Some say: “Exalt Christ and not the church.” Exalt the King and not the Kingdom? Exalt the husband and not His bride? Impossible!**
- 3. The church of Christ owes its very existence to the death of Christ.**
 - A. The church was purchased with His blood.**

Acts 20:28 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.

B. The church was sanctified by His death.

Eph 5:25-27 **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, **26** that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, **27** that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

C. The church was redeemed when He gave Himself for us.
Titus 2:11-14

4. **TRUTHS regarding Christ and His church.**

- A. **ONLY those in the church, His church, have been purchased, sanctified, and redeemed.**
- B. **Since He is the Savior of the body, and the body is the church, therefore we can conclude that He will not save anyone outside of the church.**

Eph 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Col 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Col 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

5. **Truths regarding the unity of believers.**

- A. **Paul pleaded for Christian unity at Corinth.**
1 Corinthians 1:10-13
- B. **Paul gave the charter for Christian unity**

Eph 4:4-6 **4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

- C. **Since Jesus died for the church, if the church in which He died for is really unnecessary, then Christ died in vain!**
- D. **If four hundred denominations are right and if we can attend just any church, then Christ did not reconcile us in one body, and therefore, He died in vain!**

IF I AM LOST - Christ Died in Vain!

1. The Bible teaches that many will be eternally lost.

A. To be lost means punishment.

Matt 8:12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 16:24 Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

B. To be lost means eternal punishment.

Matt 25:46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

II Th 1:9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

C. Let me emphasize, this is NOT God's will for you or me to be lost, yet most will be.

1 Tim 2:4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2. Christ died to save us from eternal punishment.

A. He died on the cross to draw sinners to Him

John 12:32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

B. He died that we might live.

1 Pet 2:24 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.**

Romans 5:8-10

C. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6).

3. TRUTHS regarding the death of Christ and salvation.

A. His death was meaningful to me only if I accept its benefits through obedience

Hebrews 5:9

B. If I do not submit to His will, and am lost in eternity, for me Christ suffered for naught and shed His blood for me in vain!

Matthew 7:21

CONCLUSION:

- 1. These are the benefits of the death of Christ. We must accept them as true and appreciate them as the greatest blessings God can bestow upon us.**
- 2. As you and I stand before Christ at judgment, could it be that for you or me Christ died in vain?**
- 3. Won't you accept Him this very moment and enjoy the blessings of His death?**

INVITATION:

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