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## Jesus' Death

Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37;  
Luke 23:46; John 19:30

*"And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.' Having said this, He breathed His last" (Luke 23:46).*

What does Christianity have that other religions do not and cannot have? Jesus Christ and His cross! God cannot and will not save man apart from Jesus' sacrifice for our sins. For those who live in Christ, the judgment has been solved. To those outside salvation, the judgment is yet to come.

Some speak of "cheap grace," but there is no "cheap grace." Grace does not overlook, forget, or repeal God's wrath. Grace absorbs the price, penalty, and punishment for sin. Every sinner and every sin is punished—either in Christ or in hell. Everything of God is in Christ; no spiritual blessings are found outside of Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

### **JESUS DIED**

God, being God, cannot die—yet Jesus died! Concerning His death, we must know *that* He died and *why* He

died (for our sins). Too often the focus is only on *how* He died.

We know that Pilate was shocked at how quickly Jesus died (Mark 15:44). Still, he did not doubt that He was dead. The other two being crucified with Jesus had to have their legs broken to speed their deaths (John 19:31–34). Since the Holy Spirit inspired the Gospel writer to include this information, He must have thought it was important for us to know. He wanted us to be sure that Jesus actually died.

Some think Jesus died from exhaustion. He had been deprived of sleep, barely fed, and brutalized in both Jewish and Roman trials. One scholar concluded that Jesus had walked 2.6 miles during these trials. Do not forget the harsh scourging. Exhausted, Jesus was unable to carry His cross.

Others think Jesus died from a broken heart. He was physically depleted and emotionally drained. Jesus was receiving God's holy anger poured out upon Him. One apostle had betrayed Him, another apostle had denied Him, and the remaining apostles, with the exception of John, had deserted Him. Humanly speaking, Jesus had been left alone. "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him" (John 1:11).

Still others think Jesus died from a ruptured heart. His quick death seems to indicate a catastrophic terminal event.

Few men were more mistreated than Jesus. Whether He died of cardiac rupture or of cardiopulmonary failure, the vital fact is *that* He died, not *how* He died. Roman guards did not leave their victims until they were certain death had occurred. Indeed, Jesus died!

## JESUS DIED FOR ME

The Bible never says that Christ lived for us or worked for us, but the Bible emphatically declares that Jesus died for us. Isaiah said He was crushed for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:5). The cross provides God's answer to the problem of sin.

Pilate would not have released the body for burial unless he was certain Jesus was dead (Matthew 15:44–47). He never doubted that Jesus was dead. Jesus' death is historical (abstract). Jesus' death for me is personal (salvational). It is not enough to believe that Jesus died; I must believe that Jesus died for me! Everything Jesus did on the cross, He did for me! God loves me and wants me (John 3:16)! Sing it. . . . Shout it. . . . "I have a Savior!"

Remember this: Preach the gospel to yourself every day. It took a cross to save you; it takes a cross to keep you saved. Ponder the sovereignty of grace.

You cannot earn grace—it is a gift.

You cannot buy grace—it is not for sale.

You cannot merit grace—it is unmerited.

You cannot repay grace—it creates no debt.

Grace changes everything—it brings salvation!

Jesus died for my sins (1 Corinthians 15:1–4)! A little girl heard a sermon about the cross. She told the preacher, "You must love Him more than anything else in the world, since He's done all that for you." Yes, we do!

Unmerited love is not unconditional; sinners cannot be saved remaining in the "far country" (Luke 15; KJV). Salvation is not by works of merit, yet Christian love is expressed in good works (Ephesians 2:8–10). Authentic love makes demands; its conditions are not for the childish. Christianity is a gift, not a bargain. It cost Jesus His

life; it will cost us ours. Grace is not a genie in a bottle; grace is a cross. Discipleship comes with an awesome price—your life. Jesus' concern on the cross was not for Himself, and we are to follow this selfless example.

Who crucified Christ? I did! Who nailed Jesus to the cross? I did! We cannot understand what Christ did for us until we grasp what we did to cause it! Sin is spiritual rebellion. It is heinous and separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1–3). Christ did for us what we could not do for ourselves. Apart from Christ, we can only die in our sins. Peter accused his audience of murdering Christ (Acts 2:22–36). They had done that physically; we have done it spiritually. We must grasp the depth of sin to accept the glory of grace. If people have not been converted to Christ, they may think they have tried Christianity and failed; in reality, they have not tried it at all. To give yourself and your children a future, give them the cross. The crucifixion explains the creation of the world, our present life, and our future. We should remind ourselves, “Because of me it had to be.”

*The cross . . .  
there is no other way!*