



I. THE SUBSTITUTIONARY PURPOSE OF THE CROSS (1 PETER 3:18)

Jesus Christ did not die as a martyr or a helpless victim. Jesus died as our substitute.

John 10:18, "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."

God is the complete antiphrasis of sin. God is so holy that sin is a repudiation of all that God is. Being just, God cannot simply overlook sin. But God is a God of infinite love. So it is in Calvary that God solves this problem. God allowed His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to take that sin upon Himself and go to the cross.

Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Ezekiel 18:20, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. . ."

Revelation 13:8, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

- Adam & Eve, clothed in coats of animal skin, teaches us that we need a covering for our sin, and that covering could not come apart from the shedding of Blood.

Hebrews 9:22, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

- God accepted Abel's blood sacrifice, rather than Cain's offering of works.
- Noah, when he came out of the ark, offered a blood sacrifice unto God.
- Abraham takes his promised son to make Him a burnt sacrifice to shed his blood. But just before he does, God provides a ram as a sacrifice in the place of Isaac.
- Passover is to picture the blood of Christ, man's only escape from God's wrath.

John 1:29, "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Hebrews 10:1, "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect."

What God was doing throughout the Old Testament was conditioning people to be ready for Calvary. It is a conditioned response throughout the Old Testament until one day, the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was the fulfilment of all of the sacrifices, came and He died, the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God.

John 8:56, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad."

II. THE SUFFERING PASSION OF THE CROSS (1 PETER 3:18)

A. THE EMOTIONAL SUFFERING OF JESUS

Luke 22:40-41, "40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. 41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,"

The word "Gethsemane" means "olive-press". It speaks symbolically of pressure.

Matthew 26:39, "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

1. The cup of the pollution of sin

II Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

2. The cup of the punishment of sin

Isaiah 53:10, "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him . . ."

Romans 8:32, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all . . ."
"The fires of God's wrath burned themselves out on Jesus Christ at Mount Calvary." – Adrian Rogers

Luke 22:44, "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly . . ."

"Agony" has the meaning of wrestling. Jesus was wrestling with His own humanity.

B. THE PHYSICAL SUFFERING OF JESUS

John 19:1, "Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him."

The word "excruciate" means "out of the cross". The process of the cross invented a new word because there was not a word that already existed to describe the pain.

III. THE SETTLED PROVISION OF THE CROSS (1 PETER 3:18)

"Christ also hath once suffered". This means one time; It is finished; Paid in Full.

IV. THE SAVING POWER OF THE CROSS (1 PETER 3:18)

The Greek word for "bring" was often used when a person would bring another into the throne room. When we come into Heaven's throne room, there is One who will take us by the hand and bring us in; His name is Jesus.

Colossians 1:20, "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven."