

Why The Cross

Part 1 of a 3 Part Series

Why the Cross

Why the Resurrection

Why The Church

Understanding the Consequences of our Sin

Romans 3:10

As it is written; there is none righteous, no, not one

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ
our Lord

Understanding the Consequences of our Sin

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

John 3:16-18

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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God

Understanding the Consequences of our Sin

Then the soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. And after twisting a crown of thorns, they put it on his head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, Hail King of the Jews! They spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head. After they had mocked Him, they took the scarlet robe off Him and put His own garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him”

(Matthew 27:27-31)

Understanding the Significance of the Cross

- Christianity is a **religion** based on **atonement**
 - **Religion** is simply defined as a set of beliefs and practices held by a human community.
 - **Atonement** is a doctrine contained in both the Old and New Testament and found in the teachings of Judaism and Christianity.

Understanding the Significance of the Cross

- **Atonement** is a doctrine contained in both the Old and New Testament and found in the teachings of Judaism and Christianity.
 - ❖ It is the process by which sins are forgiven or pardoned
 - ❖ It is how we are reconciled to God. To be **at-one-ment** with Him.

Understanding the Significance of the Cross

1 Peter 2:21-25

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 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. For you were like sheep going astray but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Understanding the Significance of the Cross

Romans 5:10

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life

II Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him

Understanding the Significance of the Gospel

- This “redemption story” (the death of Christ) distinguishes Christianity from all other religions and places it, along with the resurrection of Christ, as the primary dividing line between the other two monotheistic (One God) religions known to mankind:

➤ Judaism

➤ Islam

Understanding the Significance of the Gospel

- Why is it impossible to reconcile Christianity with these other monotheistic religions? (John 14:6, Acts 4:12, John 1:1-5, 9-12, John 3:10-18, Philippians 2:1-11)
 - *Neither one accepts that Jesus is God and they do not embrace the idea that He is the only way to God.....but they will!!*

Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me – John 14:6

Understanding the Significance of the Gospel

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death even death on a cross!

Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5-11)



Religions or
Belief Systems
That Teach We
Must “Do”

الشَّهَادَةُ الصَّلَاةُ الزَّكَاةُ الصَّوْمُ الْحَجُّ

Illuminating Islam

a guide to better understanding

سبحان الله
محمداً

What Islam Teaches About Atonement?

Support for this project is provided by the United States Department of State, through a grant from the Cooperative Grants Program of NAFSA/Association of International Educators and through the Office of International Programs, Johns Hopkins University.

What Islam Teaches About Atonement?

- Humans are basically good
- We are fallible and in need of direction

What Islam Teaches About Atonement?

- Our eternal destiny is determined by weighing our good deeds with the bad.
- In the end it is up to Allah and his mercy which (if he chooses) will tip the scales in favor of heaven for his will is supreme

What Islam Teaches About Jesus?

- He was one of the most respected of the 124,000 prophets sent by Allah to this world.
- He was sinless, born of a virgin, and a great miracle worker.

What Islam Teaches About Jesus?

- They do not believe that He was the Son of God and openly deny such
- They deny that Jesus was crucified (in fact He did not die) and therefore did not make atonement for man's sin

What Judaism Teaches About:



Salvation & Jesus?

Modern Judaism has two basic views of Salvation:

- It is achieved through prayer, repentance and obeying the Law
- or
- It is achieved through an improved society

Modern Judaism view of Jesus:

- Jesus was either an extremely false messiah or a good but martyred Jewish rabbi or teacher
- Orthodox Judaism has no provision for Jesus' atoning sacrifice on the cross for man's sin

Modern Judaism view of Jesus:

- Orthodox Judaism does not currently embrace Jesus as the Son of God, nor do they accept Him as their Messiah
- Orthodox Judaism does not currently accept that Jesus rose from the dead and they do not embrace the Trinity (God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)

A painting of Lord Krishna, a Hindu deity, standing in a lush green forest. He is depicted with a fair complexion, wearing a yellow dhoti and a pink shawl. He has a peacock feather in his crown and is playing a flute. A peacock is visible in the foreground on the left. The background shows a dense forest with trees and a bright light source, possibly the sun, creating a halo effect around Krishna's head.

What Does Hinduism Say About Salvation & Jesus?

What Does Hinduism Say About Salvation?

- Salvation is achieved when a person is finally released from the cycle of reincarnation through some sort of improved status.
- When this takes place, the person is somehow absorbed or united with Brahman (God).

What Does Hinduism Say About Jesus?

- They teach that Jesus was a teacher, a guru, or an avatar (a bodily manifestation of a higher being)
- They do teach Jesus was the son of God, but such status is not limited to just Jesus.
- Jesus' death does not atone for man's sin and Jesus did not resurrect from the dead



What does Buddhism say about salvation & Jesus

Regarding Salvation

- Salvation is achieved when all fleshly cravings and desires are eliminated
- This is achieved through an “eight-fold” path of enlightenment; which when this occurs, we are completely free from desiring anything and we have reached Nirvana – where suffering ceases.

Regarding Jesus

- Jesus does not fit into their historic world view except for western Buddhist's who teach Jesus was an "enlightened teacher".
- There is no provision for an atoning sacrifice, for we are all capable of reaching a status of "enlightenment" on our own.



L. RON
HUBBARD

What Does Scientology teach
about salvation and Jesus?

DIANETICS

Regarding Salvation

- There is no need for salvation or atonement
- Sin does not exist and there is nothing to repent of

Regarding Jesus

- There is no need for Jesus, God, or the Holy Spirit – thus Jesus did not die for man's sin
- They simply deny the need for Jesus and teach that freedom from our “hang ups” is achieved through self effort



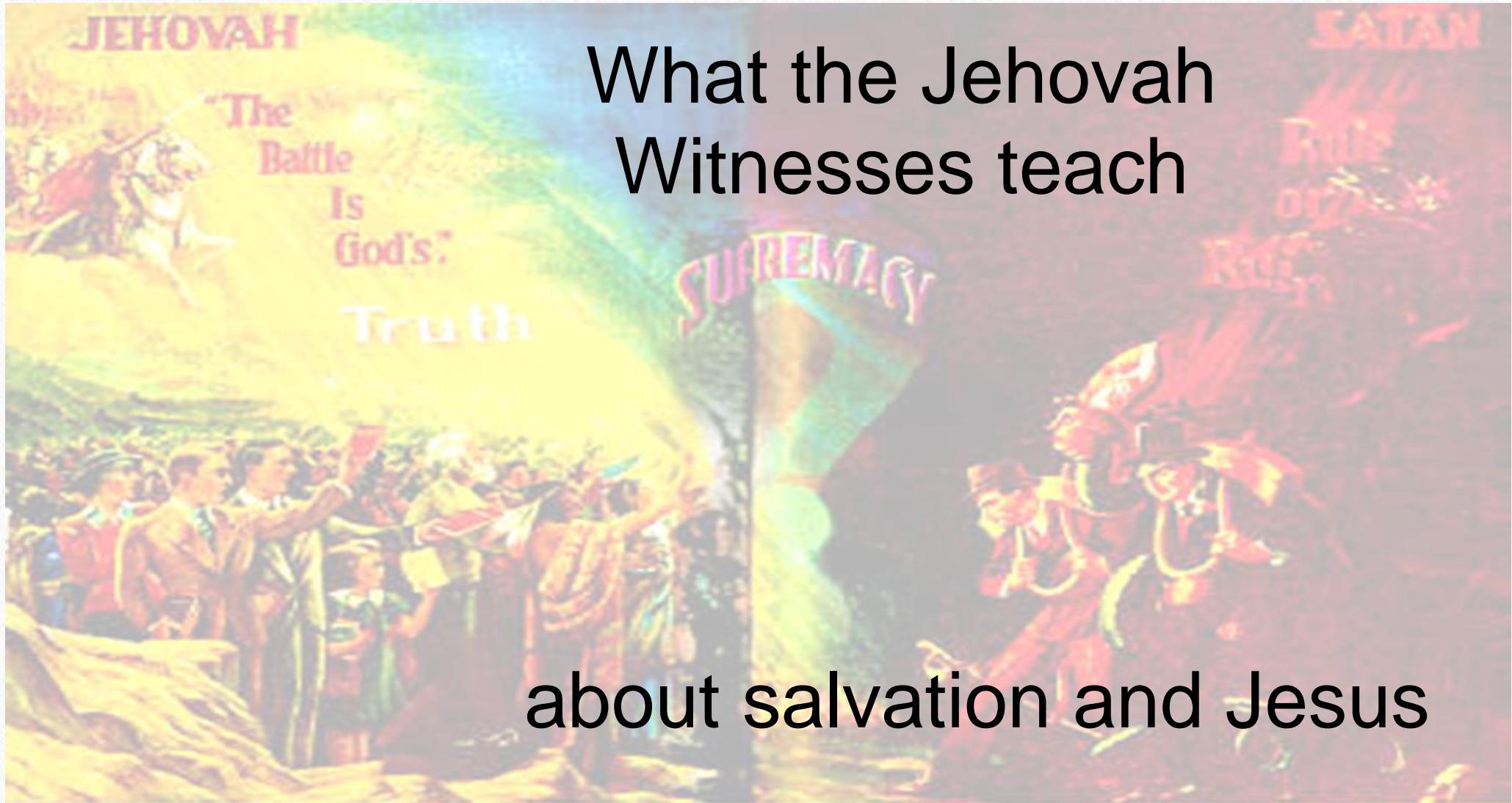
What does Mormonism teach
about salvation and Jesus

Regarding Salvation

- It is achieved through works like:
 - Faithfulness to the church and its leaders
 - Baptism
 - Tithing
 - Marriage
 - Participating in Temple rituals
 - Mormon membership
- Ultimately salvation occurs when one is elevated to the godhead

Regarding Jesus

- His death does not provide full atonement for sin, but it does provide a means to be resurrected.
- He is a “separate” god from the Father and a “created being” or “spiritual child” of the Father.



JEHOVAH'S

WITNESSES' FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

Regarding Salvation

- They have no real provision for atonement, but salvation is achieved through being baptized as a Jehovah Witness
- Theirs is a work-based system also:
 - Through door-to-door witnessing
 - Baptism
 - Faithfulness to their teachings

Regarding Jesus

- They teach that Jesus is not God
- Prior to coming to the earth – Jesus was Michael the Archangel
- While on earth, Jesus led a perfect life, died on a stake (single pole not a cross) and resurrected as a spirit not a body

Regarding Jesus

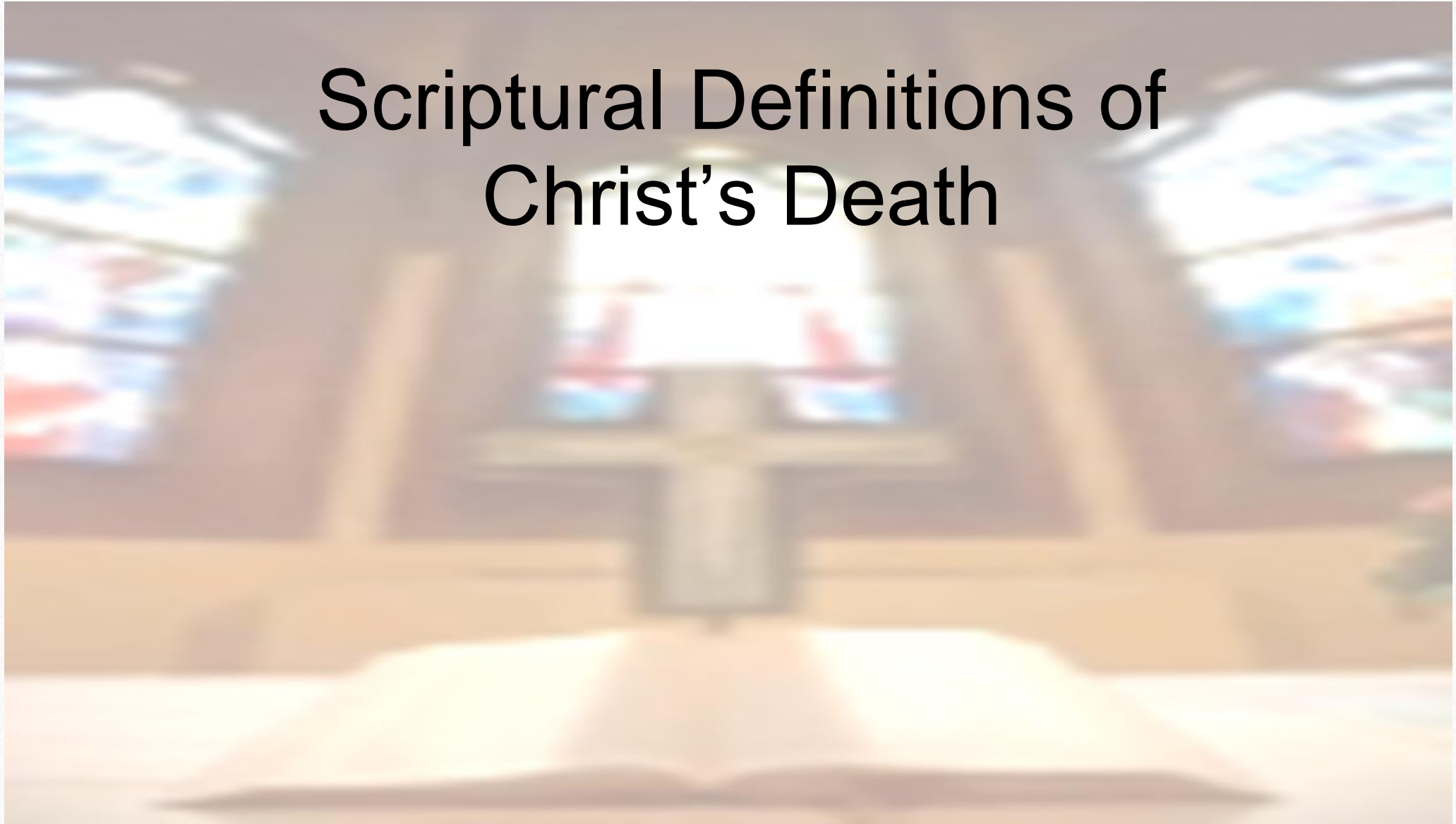
- They teach that Jesus is coming again though He did return as a spirit in 1914
- When Jesus returns; He, along with the angels will destroy all non-Jehovah Witnesses

Christianity is the only belief
system that teaches:



It
Is Done

Scriptural Definitions of Christ's Death



Jesus was our ransom

Matt. 20:28, I Peter 1:18-19, I Timothy 2:1-6, Galatians 3:13

- Which is best defined as delivering someone from captivity by paying a price or to buy back/redeem
- *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of a broken law by Himself being made a curse for us. His death was a ransom price paid for our deliverance”* **William Evans**

Jesus was our ransom

Matt. 20:28, I Peter 1:18-19, I Timothy 2:1-6, Galatians 3:13

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. **For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.”** (I Timothy 2:1-6)

Jesus was our propitiation

(1 John 2:2, Romans 3:25, Hebrews 2:17)

- Which is best understood to mean that Jesus was our covering
- *“The death of Jesus Christ is set forth as the ground on which a righteous God can pardon a guilty and sinful race without in any way compromising His righteousness”* **William Evans**

Jesus was our propitiation

(1 John 2:2, Romans 3:25, Hebrews 2:17)

- For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:17)
- “God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished - he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus (Romans 3:25-26)

Jesus was our substitute

(Isaiah 53:6, I Peter 2:24-25, 3:18, II Corinthians 5:21)

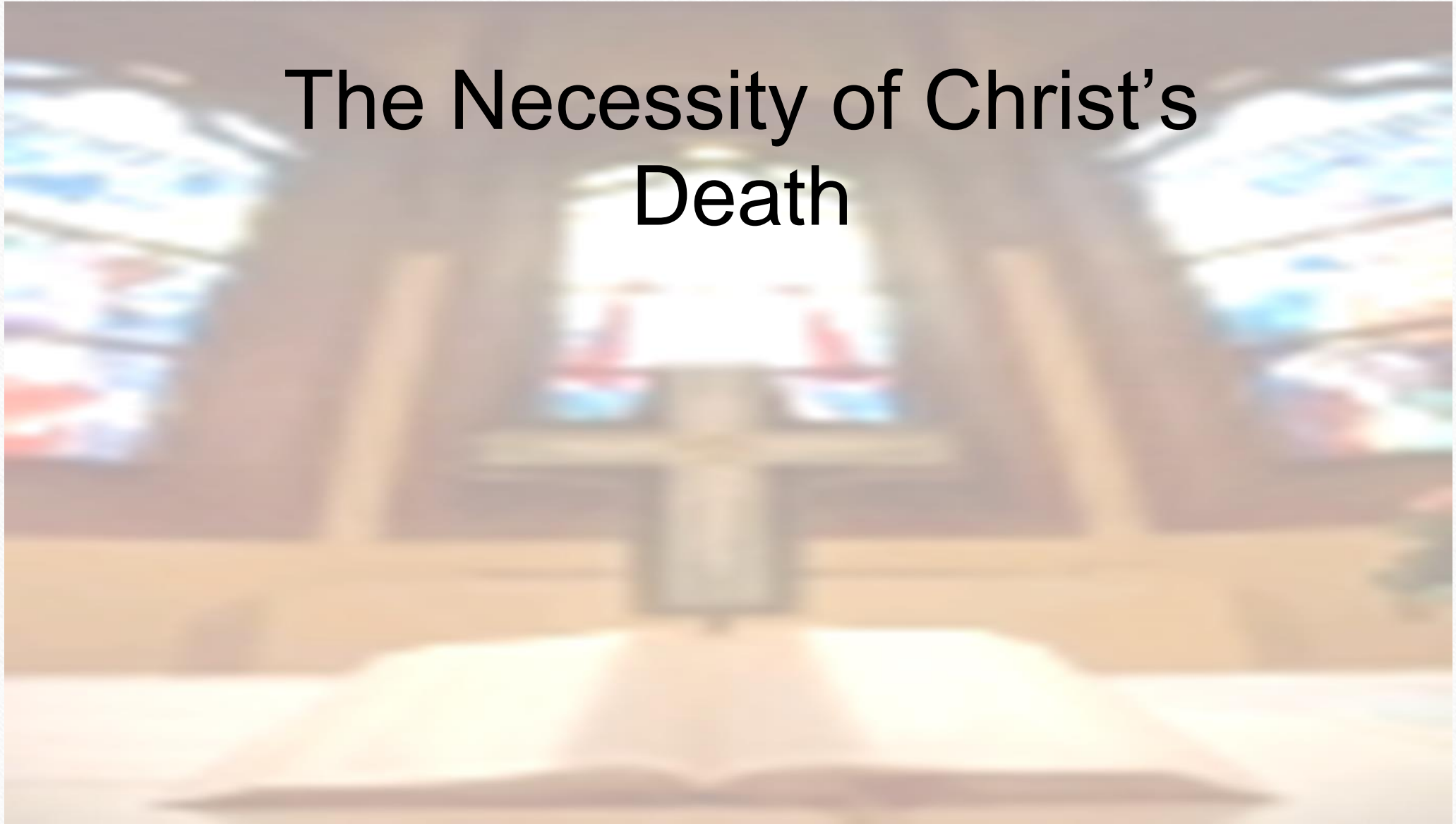
-
- He became the “Passover Lamb” in which “the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all”
 - *Only Jesus could be the proper substitute because He knew no sin*
 - It was Christ’s death that reconciled us to God (Romans 5:10, II Corinthians 5:18-19, Col. 1:20)

Jesus was our substitute

(Isaiah 53:6, I Peter 2:24-25, 3:18, II Corinthians 5:21)

- “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (II Corinthians 5:21)
- “He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” (I Peter 2:24-25)

The Necessity of Christ's Death



Our relationship to God was broken:

- Because of God's **Holiness**; which requires those who come before Him are also **holy** (1 Peter 1:16)
- Because of man's **sin** which is defined as *complete rebellion against a perfect, righteous and holy God. If left unredeemed it will condemn a person to hell.*
(Romans 3:10, 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, John 3:16-18)

Our relationship to God was broken:

Because of these two irreconcilable differences between man's sin and God's holiness; the only means by which we could be reconciled to Him was through the **atoning death** on the cross by the perfect sacrifice which was **Jesus Christ**.
(John 1:1-18)

It didn't end at the cross – He Arose!

- Because sin brought death and separation from God
– Christ conquered that by raising from the dead!
- Because Jesus told us He would raise from the dead and be seated at the right hand of God. (Matthew 26:64, Acts 5:31, 7:55)

The Resurrection