

THE ULTIMATE COST OF SALVATION

A story is told of a man who worked as a drawbridge operator many years ago in the 1920s. One afternoon, he took his young son to work with him. As the bridge was raised to let a cargo ship pass, the operator heard the distant whistle of an oncoming express passenger train conveying 400 passengers. He quickly pulled the lever to lower the bridge, but he realized his young son had fallen into the heavy gears. Stopping the gears to save his son meant the bridge would stay open, causing the passenger train and hundreds of innocent lives to plunge into the river. Devastated, he made the unthinkable choice to leave his son crushed in the gears and close the bridge. As the train zoomed past, the passengers waved, completely oblivious to the agonizing cost of their survival. This true life story portrays God's sacrifice: God allowed His Son, Jesus, to experience death to save humanity from eternal separation from Him.

At the core of the Christian faith is the Biblical narrative of Abraham being commanded to sacrifice his son Isaac. Just as Abraham was willing to sacrifice his beloved son on Mount Moriah, God provided a ram as a substitute, but on the cross, there was no substitute; Jesus became the substitute for the sins of the world. God the Father willingly gave His Son, Jesus, as the ultimate sacrifice. So, forgiveness and eternal life were not free; they came at the highest possible cost, the life of God's only Son.

John 3:16-17 ¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* ¹⁷ *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

Someone needed to carry out God's plan for redeeming mankind. Someone needed to be sacrificed for the sins of the World. And, only the Son of God had blood pure enough to be that sacrifice.

The high Cost

Through His blood, we have redemption for our sins. Ephesians 1:7 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;* Hebrews 9:12 *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

Jesus didn't have to be like the priests of the Old Testament to go in every day to make a sacrifice for the people. Jesus' blood was pure enough, was a sacrifice enough, to be offered but one time, for sins of all, for all time. It would never have to be given again.

Hebrews 9:11-14 ¹¹ *But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;* ¹² *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place,*

having obtained eternal redemption for us.¹³ For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

The Good news

Today, there is good news for all mankind. Titus 2:11 says *the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men*. Two thousand years later, we live under the terms of the New Testament through which all mankind can be totally reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.

In Romans 3:23, Paul wrote, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*". This means a spiritual separation from God! What is the consequence of all sin? Paul tells us in Romans 6:23, "*For the wages of sin is death*". Jesus is the answer and a ransom for the sins of a perishing world.

John 3:5, *Jesus says, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."*

How does one become born again? What does one who is dead have to do in order to become alive again? How does one become a Christian? Acts 3:19 *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

Acts 2:37-38 ³⁷ *Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?* ³⁸ *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

This process of being born again involves water. We must be born again and we must be born of water and the Spirit if we want to enter the kingdom of God, John 3:3. Jesus commissioned His apostles to, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but, he who does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:15-16. In baptism, we are not only united with Christ but also added to His church with all the saved Galatians 3:26-27; Acts 2:47. The same act that puts us into Christ, puts us into His spiritual body, the church of which He is head and Savior 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:23. Baptism is an act of faith whereby we experience the grace and power of God Colossians 2:12. The saving power is not in the water but in the Lord 1 Peter 3:21. Baptism is just the beginning of the new life in Christ. As our sins are washed away, we are saved.

You can make your life right with God. No matter how old you may be, no matter your situation and no matter how far you think you have gone, it is not too late to make your life

right by obeying the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you are sincerely desiring to serve the Lord, then He can certainly help you in your pursuit of righteousness and salvation. Please contact us if you would like to correspond or speak with someone concerning the Bible's plan of salvation.

Bro Michael Bamiduro
Church of Christ
Southend-On-Sea.