

## IF HE DIDN'T GO TO THE CROSS

Imagine for a moment, you take away the cross, and you take away the price that was paid for our redemption. Take away the cross, and you remove the greatest act of love this world has ever known. If He didn't go to the cross, where would we be? Still broken, still bound, still condemned. But Jesus chose the cross, and that changed everything.

*Imagine a world where mercy never met us...*

A life where grace was never extended...

A future where redemption was never written into our story.

If He didn't go to the cross, sin would still reign without restraint. There would be no bridge between a holy God and a fallen people. We would strive endlessly, yet never arrive, working, sacrificing, and trying to earn what could never be earned.

If He didn't go to the cross, guilt would have the final word. Every mistake would remain a stain that could not be washed away. There would be no freedom from shame, no release from the weight of our past. Condemnation would be our constant companion.

If He didn't go to the cross, love would still exist, but we would never fully understand it. For the cross is where love was proven, not just spoken. It is where sacrifice took on flesh and declared, "*You are worth it.*"

If He didn't go to the cross, there would be no victory over death. The grave would still hold power, fear would still grip hearts, and eternity would remain uncertain. Hope would be fragile, temporary at best.

**But He DID Go! Thank you, Jesus!**

He chose the nails.

He endured the suffering.

He carried the cross: knowing every sin, every failure, every moment we would fall short and still said "Yes."

## **Because of the cross:**

- We are forgiven.
- We are made righteous.
- We are no longer bound, but free.
- We have hope that reaches beyond this life.

The cross turned what could have been a hopeless story into one of redemption, power, and eternal promise.

So today, we don't live in the "what if."  
We live in the "because He did."

Because He went to the cross...

You are not forgotten.

You are not condemned.

You are not without hope.

You are redeemed.

## **10 Reasons Christians Should Keep Easter Focused on Jesus**

### **1. Easter is about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

That is the heart of our faith. Jesus gave His life for our sins, was buried, and rose again in victory.

**1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (NKJV)**

### **2. The resurrection is the proof that Jesus is the Son of God.**

Easter reminds us that Jesus did not stay in the grave. He rose with all power, showing that He is Lord.

**Romans 1:4 (NKJV)**

### **3. Jesus paid the price for our salvation.**

Easter points us to the cross and the empty tomb. Because of Jesus, we can be forgiven, redeemed, and made new.

**Isaiah 53:5, 1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV)**

**4. The bunny does not save anybody, but Jesus does.**

Cute traditions may be around the holiday, but they must never replace the Savior. Only Jesus brings eternal life.

**John 14:6 (NKJV)**

**5. Easter is a celebration of victory over sin and death.**

Jesus conquered the grave. That means death does not get the final word for those who belong to Him.

**1 Corinthians 15:55–57 (NKJV)**

**6. Christians are called to remember what Christ has done.**

We should teach our families, children, and others that this season is about the sacrifice and triumph of Jesus.

**Luke 22:19 (NKJV)**

**7. The cross shows the greatest love ever given.**

Easter is a powerful reminder that Jesus willingly laid down His life for us because of His great love.

**John 3:16 (NKJV)**

**8. The resurrection gives us living hope.**

Because Jesus rose, we have hope in hard times, hope beyond this life, and hope that cannot be buried.

**1 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)**

**9. Easter should stir gratitude, worship, and reverence in our hearts.**

This is not just another spring holiday. This is the remembrance of the greatest act of love and redemption in history.

**Matthew 28:5–6 (NKJV)**

**10. When we keep Easter centered on Jesus, we honor the true meaning of the day.**

The empty tomb is the headline. Jesus is the reason we rejoice. He is risen, and that changes everything.

**Matthew 28:6 (NKJV)**

**Note:** Easter is not about a bunny hopping through the grass. It is about the Savior who walked out of the grave.

The bunny may be part of culture, but Jesus is the center of the Christian message. Easter is our reminder that the cross was not the end, the tomb is empty, and our Redeemer lives.

Christians should recognize Easter as the celebration of what Jesus did for us on the cross and through His resurrection, not reduce it to a bunny, baskets, and candy.

## The Gospel Accounts of Jesus Dying on the Cross

### **Matthew 27:35 (NKJV)**

“Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet:

‘They divided My garments among them,  
And for My clothing they cast lots.’”

### **Matthew 27:45–50 (NKJV)**

“Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’

Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, ‘This Man is calling for Elijah!’

Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.

The rest said, ‘Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.’ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.”

### **Mark 15:24 (NKJV)**

“And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take.”

**Mark 15:33–37 (NKJV)**

“Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ which is translated, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’

Some of those who stood by, when they heard that, said, ‘Look, He is calling for Elijah!’

Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink, saying, ‘Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down.’

And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.”

**Luke 23:33 (NKJV)**

“And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.”

**Luke 23:44–46 (NKJV)**

“Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, ‘Father, “into Your hands I commit My spirit.” ’ Having said this, He breathed His last.”

**John 19:16–18 (NKJV)**

“Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away.

And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.”

**John 19:28–30 (NKJV)**

“After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ‘I thirst!’

Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."

### **John 19:33–34 (NKJV)**

"But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out."

## **Scriptures That Explain Jesus Died For Our Sins**

### **Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV)**

"But He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,  
And by His stripes we are healed."

### **Isaiah 53:6 (NKJV)**

"All we like sheep have gone astray;  
We have turned, every one, to his own way;  
And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

### **Isaiah 53:7 (NKJV)**

"He was oppressed and He was afflicted,  
Yet He opened not His mouth;  
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,  
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
So He opened not His mouth."

### **Isaiah 53:8 (NKJV)**

"He was taken from prison and from judgment,  
And who will declare His generation?  
For He was cut off from the land of the living;  
For the transgressions of My people He was stricken."

**Isaiah 53:10 (NKJV)**

“Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him;  
He has put Him to grief.  
When You make His soul an offering for sin,  
He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days,  
And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.”

**Romans 5:8 (NKJV)**

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

**Romans 6:23 (NKJV)**

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

**1 Corinthians 15:3 (NKJV)**

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,”

**2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)**

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

**Galatians 3:13 (NKJV)**

“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us, for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree,’ ”

**Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV)**

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”

**Philippians 2:8 (NKJV)**

“And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

**Colossians 1:14 (NKJV)**

“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

### **Colossians 2:14 (NKJV)**

“having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

### **1 Thessalonians 5:10 (NKJV)**

“who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.”

### **Hebrews 9:27–28 (NKJV)**

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

### **Hebrews 10:10 (NKJV)**

“By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

### **Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)**

“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

### **1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV)**

“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.”

### **1 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)**

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,”

### **1 John 1:7 (NKJV)**

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

**1 John 2:2 (NKJV)**

“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

**Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)**

“To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,”

**Prophetic Scriptures About the Crucifixion**

**Psalms 22:1 (NKJV)**

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

**Psalms 22:7–8 (NKJV)**

“All those who see Me ridicule Me;  
They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,  
‘He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him;  
Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!’”

**Psalms 22:16 (NKJV)**

“For dogs have surrounded Me;  
The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.  
They pierced My hands and My feet;”

**Psalms 22:18 (NKJV)**

“They divide My garments among them,  
And for My clothing they cast lots.”

**Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV)**

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”

***The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus died on the cross in Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19, and it explains that He died for our sins in verses like Isaiah 53:5, Romans 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:3, 1 Peter 2:24, and Philippians 2:8.***

## **A powerful truth to remember**

**Jesus did not just die. He died for us.**

He took our place, bore our sins, shed His blood, and finished the work of redemption on the cross.

## **Wisdom Nuggets**

- 1. The cross was the cost of our freedom, and Jesus paid it in full.**
- 2. If Jesus had not gone to the cross, sin would still have a claim on us, but His sacrifice broke every chain.**
- 3. The cross proves that God's love is not just something He said, it is something He showed.**
- 4. No cross, no covering. No sacrifice, no salvation. But thank God, Jesus said yes.**
- 5. The cross was painful, but it was also purposeful.**

## ***My Conclusion***

If He didn't go to the cross, we would still be lost, still guilty, still bound, and still without hope. Sin would still have power over us, shame would still be hanging on us, and eternity would look very different. But Jesus did go to the cross. He went with love in His heart, purpose in His suffering, and victory in His hands.

He took our place. He bore our sins. He carried the weight we could never carry on our own. And because He went to the cross, we have forgiveness. Because He went to the cross, we have mercy. Because He went to the cross, we have access to the Father. Because He went to the cross, we have eternal life through Him.

So let us never treat the cross like a small thing. Let us never grow casual about Calvary. Let us never forget the price that Jesus paid for our redemption. The cross was not the end of Jesus' story. It was the turning point for ours.

If He didn't go to the cross, we would have nothing. But because He did, we have everything we need in Him. We have hope for the broken places, healing for the wounded heart, freedom for the captive soul, and salvation for all who believe.

So today, let us thank Him again. Let us honor Him again. Let us live for the One who died for us. Jesus went to the cross, and that changed everything.

**If He didn't go to the cross, we would still be searching. But because He did, we have been saved.**

## Biblical Definitions

**1. Cross** is the place where Jesus gave His life as the sacrifice for the sins of the world. It represents suffering, surrender, redemption, and the love of God shown through Christ.

**Key Scripture:** Philippians 2:8, Colossians 2:14

**2. Redemption-** means to be bought back or set free by a price being paid. Jesus redeemed us through His blood, rescuing us from sin and bringing us back to God.

**Key Scripture:** Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14

**3. Sacrifice-** is the offering of something precious. Jesus became the perfect and final sacrifice for our sins, giving His own life so we could be forgiven and made right with God.

**Key Scripture:** Hebrews 10:10, 1 Peter 3:18

**4. Salvation-** is the gift of deliverance from sin and eternal separation from God. Through Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection, we are saved by grace through faith in Him.

**Key Scripture:** Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8–9

**5. Atonement** - is the work of making peace between God and man through the covering and removing of sin by the blood of Jesus.

**Key Scripture:** Romans 5:11

**6. Grace-** is the unearned favor of God given to us through Jesus Christ. We did not deserve the cross, but Jesus went anyway.

**Key Scripture:** Titus 2:11, Ephesians 2:8

#### **7. Forgiveness**

- is God releasing us from the guilt and penalty of sin because of what Jesus did on the cross.

**Key Scripture:** Colossians 1:14

#### **8. Reconciliation**

- is being brought back into right relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

**Key Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:18–19

## Easter Fill in the Blank

1. Easter reminds Christians that Jesus Christ rose from the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus died on the \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins.
3. On the third day, Jesus rose again from the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The resurrection of Jesus shows His power over sin and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Easter is a time to remember the great \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus for us.
6. Jesus gave His life so we could have forgiveness and \_\_\_\_\_ life.
7. The stone was rolled away from the entrance of the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Because Jesus rose again, we have hope, joy, and \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

Notes:

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# Answer Key

1. **dead**
2. **cross**
3. **grave**
4. **death**
5. **love**
6. **eternal**
7. **tomb**
8. **victory**