

Did Christ Die In Vain?

Sunday PM 10/17/21

Introduction:

Our text, ***"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."***

Galatians 2:20-21. The Bible speaks of the importance of Christ's death in at least 175 passages. We can read of the reason of his death, ***"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 Peter 3:18)*** Jesus died for everyone, ***"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."*** (***Hebrews 2:9***) No event or events are more important in human history than the birth, life of, death and resurrection of Christ. The very message of the Gospel centers on Christ and our salvation. Yet Paul speaks some who were making the death of Christ vain or empty. The problem then is the same today as the doctrines and practices of some makes the death of Christ vain.

I) Christ Died In Vain if Righteousness Came by The Law of Moses

A) Problem of Judaizing teachers.

Acts 15:1 ***And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."***

1. A persistent problem in the church as they wanted to make the Gospel an addition to the Law of Moses.
2. Paul called this a different Gospel.

Galatians 1:7 ***which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.***

3. If one could be saved by observing the Law of Moses then why did Jesus die?

B) Still a problem today as some seek to observe part of the Law of Moses.

1. Dual Covenant theology which says the Jews are saved by the Law of Moses, Christians by the Law of Christ.
2. Paul did not believe in such "Dual Covenant" theology.

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. Galatians 5:4

3. If one can be saved by keeping the 10 Commandments then Christ died in vain.

II) Christ Died in Vain if Morality Alone Is Enough to Be Saved

A) This tends to minimize sin and its consequences

1. People could and did live good "moral lives" before Jesus died.
 - a. Read of people like Cornelius

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. Acts 10:1-2

Acts 10:22 And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you."

- b. Lydia in **Acts 16** was religious and nothing said about an immoral lifestyle.
2. Just living a good moral lifestyle is not another plan of salvation.

B) Something more is required than a good moral lifestyle.

1. Cornelius had to do something more.

2. He had to hear the words of life.

Acts 10:33 *"So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."*

Acts 10:35 *"But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. 36 "The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ--He is Lord of all-- 37 "that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: 38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. 39 "And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. 40 "Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly,*

III) Christ Died in Vain if One Can be Saved Apart From His Blood

A) Don't hear much about the blood of Christ

1. Jesus' death was a bloody death.
2. His body beaten, crown of thorns, nails drive through His hands and feet.

John 19:34 *But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.*

B) Importance of Jesus' blood

1. Essential for the remission of sins.

Hebrews 9:22 *And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.*

2. Not just any blood would do.

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

3. It is only through the blood of Christ can we find redemption.

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

4. If one can be saved without the blood of Christ then Jesus shed His blood for nothing.

IV) **Christ Died in Vain if One Can Be Saved Apart From the Church**

A) Many malign the church Jesus established.

1. I believe in Jesus, not His church.
2. One can be just as good out of the church as in it.

B) What is the church?

1. It is that for which Jesus paid for.

Acts 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

2. The church is the bride of Christ and He loves His bride.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

3. It is in the church man is reconciled to God.

Ephesians 2:16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

4. If one can be saved without being a part of the Body of Christ, His church, then Christ died in vain.

V) **Christ Died in Vain As Far As You Are Concerned if You Don't Take**

Advantage of It.

A) Individually Christ's death means nothing to me, if I am not a Christian.

1. Jews who denied the Messiah, good moral people are lost without Christ, believers who never have the blood of Christ are still lost, just as those outside of His church.

B) How does one appropriate the death of Christ?

1. Listen to Paul, ***Romans 6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.***
2. Obey this command of Jesus from the heart, and all the blessings made available His death will be yours.

Conclusion:

Christ died for everyone, don't you let His death be in vain.