

What If Jesus Had Not Died On The Cross?

Sunday AM 04/12/20

Introduction:

I know the subject matter of this lesson is purely hypothetical. But I want us to understand exactly how important the death of Jesus on the cross is for all of mankind. Jesus not only said He would be crucified but He said "must" be crucified.

Matthew 26:2 *"You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."*

Mark 8:31 *And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.*

Luke 24:7 *"saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"*

Why was it necessary for Jesus to die on the cross? I came up with over twelve important things but this lesson will not deal with all twelve. I am taking this from the present time backwards.

I) If Jesus Had Not Died on the Cross We Would Not Have the Gospel

A) **1 Corinthians 15:3** *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*

1. You cannot have a burial without His death. We don't bury people who are alive.
2. You cannot have a resurrection without a death. Therefore, the preaching on the Day of Pentecost would not have occurred.
3. The very basis of the Gospel, the Law of Christ is His death, burial, and resurrection.
4. We would have no hope of our resurrection since it is built on Jesus' resurrection.
5. *"But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming."* **(1 Corinthians 15:23)**

II) If Jesus Had Not Died on the Cross We Would Have No Baptism

A) ***Acts 2:37*** *Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

1. On the Day of Pentecost we have the first Gospel sermon. It included Peter talking about the works of Jesus, His manner of death, His resurrection, and being at the right hand of God.
2. We have a risen Savior and one of the commandments of Jesus is to be baptized for the "remission of sin".

- a. **Mark 16:15** *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*
 - b. **Luke 24:46** *Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*
3. Our baptism is not just some ceremonial process but is into the body of Christ.
 4. *"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."* **(Romans 6:3-4)**

III) If Jesus Had Not Died on the Cross There Would Be No Blood to Wash Away Our Sins

A) **Hebrews 10:3** *But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. ..10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

1. It was on the cross the blood of Jesus was shed, **John 19.34**

2. It is through His sacrifice, His blood we have the remission of our sins.
 - a. **Acts 22:16** *'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'*
 - b. **Ephesians 1:7** *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*
3. Notice we are purchased or redeemed by the blood of Jesus, w/o His blood there is not remission.
4. We come in contact with that blood through our faith in Jesus being the Son of God, repenting of our sins, confessing Jesus, and being baptized for the remission of our sins.
5. We don't baptize into a dead Savior but one who died for us and arose from the grave.
6. According to **Hebrews 10.10** we would still be in need of the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

IV) If Jesus Had Not Died on the Cross there would be No Lord's Supper

- A) **Matthew 26:26-28** NKJV *26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the*

remission of sins.

1. Obviously Jesus body would not have been nailed to the cross and His blood would not have been shed.
2. The Christians came together at Troas on the first day of the week to “break bread” **Acts 20.7**
3. In the Lord’s Supper we remember His death and we look forward to His return.
4. **1 Corinthians 11:24** *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*
5. We would still be looking forward to the Messiah coming the first time and not His second coming.

V) If Jesus Had Not Died on the Cross There Would Be No Church

A) 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.*

1. Going back to an earlier point it is through His blood we have redemption, His blood washes away our sin, His blood was shed on the cross.

2. His blood was given to purchase His church. He paid the price for our redemption.
3. Those baptized on the Day of Pentecost could not have been added to the church, **Acts 2.47**.
4. Jesus would not have established His church.
5. The church Christ established is based on His life, death, and resurrection. He is the head of His church and the foundation of His church.
6. **1 Corinthians 3:11** *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*
7. **Ephesians 1:22** *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

VI) If Jesus Had Not Died on the Cross He Would Have Been Either A Liar or Mistaken About His Mission on Earth

A) *John 10:15* "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. 17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

1. Laying down His life means to voluntarily die for us.
2. On numerous occasions Jesus spoke of his impending

death on the cross.

3. **John 3:13** *"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. 14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 "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.*

Conclusion:

Like I said earlier there are at least six more things we can say about this topic. My point is how blessed we are because Jesus did die on the cross. Because of His death we have the Gospel of Christ, we have the baptism for the remission of our sins, we have His blood which washes away our sins, we have the Lord's Supper, we have His church, we know Jesus is our Savior the Messiah and our King.