

WHAT HAS JESUS DONE FOR US?

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What does it mean that Jesus is the redeemer?

2 Cor 5:21

How are we justified before God? In other words, how can we appear before God as if we have never done anything wrong?

Example: these days we need virus scanners on our computers. There are people in this world who want to corrupt our computers and break them. Once there is a serious virus on the computer then everything is scrambled. The worst that can happen is that the entire computer cannot be used any more. If the hard disk no longer works then a complete transplant needs to be carried out. Everything is deleted and has to be reinstalled.

This is actually what happens in our life if we live in sin. Our heart is infected. Jesus gives us a new heart, or a new hard drive as it were. The following points indicate how that took place around 2000 years ago. Jesus died on the cross. An exchange took place at the cross between Jesus and us. Jesus took away the bad from us and gave us the good in return.

1. Jesus took our sin and gave us righteousness

1 Peter 2:24

Jesus asks His Father to take away the cup from him. The cup symbolizes the anger of God against sin and the punishment entailed with that sin. But Jesus knew that He came to drink of this cup. Jesus is on the verge of taking the sin of the world upon himself. We deserve the punishment but Jesus is prepared to take the punishment of our sin. In our place He died on the cross.

During the interrogation, the whipping and on the cross, Jesus bled. The blood that Jesus shed has a cleansing effect for our body, soul and spirit. The sacrifice of Jesus pays the price for the guilt and conviction of our sin.

If we truly believe this act of Jesus in our hearts, then God sees us as completely pure. We are right before him (righteous). Jesus takes our sins and in turn gives us his righteousness back. We receive His godly nature and His identity.

This is grace, a free gift that we did not earn nor deserve. It is not our righteousness but his righteousness. *Rom 3:24, Rom 5:8,9*

2. Jesus bore our punishment and gave complete pardon

Isa 53:5 Jer 31:34

In court, sentences are given if someone is found guilty. In some countries you receive the death penalty if you have murdered someone. That is how it is with us. Our sin means that we are sentenced to death.

Jesus took the punishment that we should have received completely upon himself of his own free will. In our place He was crucified and killed.

Imagine that you were sentenced to death in court. At the end of the hearing the judge's son comes up to the front. He says that he loves you so much that he wants to be punished in your place. If later on you are stopped on the street and the accuser recognizes you, he says that you still need to be punished. But according to the records that punishment has been served. You are free. There's nothing more written in the records. Jesus took your punishment upon himself on the cross and you are totally pardoned.

3. Jesus took our spiritual death and gave us eternal life

Rom 6:23

Jesus died on the cross. In the three days of his bodily death, Jesus conquered death! That was why He came to earth. No one could do what Jesus did. Only He who is life could rise from the dead. So the spirit of life came back into Jesus. For everyone who believes this, eternal life enters your human spirit. We are no longer spiritually dead but our human spirit comes to life, eternally with God.

4. Jesus took our sickness and pain and gave us healing and health

Isa 53:4,5 Matt 8:17

When Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom we see that people are healed. We can read many stories of how people were healed when Jesus touched them or spoke to them.

Jesus was beaten to the point that He bled. He took our sickness and pain and in exchange He gives us healing and health.

5. Jesus became poor and gave us abundance

2 Cor 8:9 2 Cor 9:8

From the moment of his birth we do not see that He is the rich Son of God on earth. On the cross He literally lost everything. Everything was taken from him. He was hungry, thirsty and naked. All basic needs that we have as humans were taken from him.

Jesus wanted to go through all of this so that we could receive abundance. This has always been God's will. He wants to bless us so that we can complete the task He has given us to do.

Jesus took our poverty and gave us abundance.

6. Jesus was rejected so that we can be accepted in God's family

Eph 2:19-21

Jesus hung completely helpless on the cross. During that difficult moment, Jesus experienced what it was like to have God leave Him alone. The only time that Jesus did not call God his Father, but only God, was on the cross. We know this feeling when we fail or sin. It seems as though God is far away or that He has rejected us. Jesus experienced this as well, as being forsaken for us.

We know that God is always there and especially in the difficult times. After the death of Jesus, God raised him up from death and

exalted Jesus by placing him at His right hand. It's the same for you. Jesus takes your rejection, no matter who it is that rejected you. Jesus takes your feelings of being rejected by God. God gives you acceptance, a place in His family and He becomes your Father.

7. Jesus took our shame and gave us His glory

Heb 12:2

You can often feel really bad if everything is going wrong in your life; if you do things no one is allowed to know about; or if you give in to peer pressure. Later on, when you are alone, your conscience can speak to you and you can feel guilty or a sense of shame comes over you. But this feeling is often only temporary because before you know it, you're doing the same thing again.

Jesus walked as an innocent lamb. Yet He carried all guilt and shame without saying a word. He not only carried all our guilt, but He also wants to lift all shame off us. He exchanges our shame for his glory. In his glory and presence you are completely restored.

8. Jesus became a curse and gave us His blessing

Gal 3:13,14

In the time of the Jews those who were sentenced to death were stoned. When the Romans came, they crucified convicted people. In the OT it says that everyone who hangs on wood is cursed. Jesus chose to let himself be judged by the Jewish spiritual leaders, and also by the political leaders. That is how He ended up on the cross. The crown of thorns on his head was the cause of bleeding. Both signs – the cross and the crown of thorns – tell us that Jesus was cursed. The crown of thorns represents the rule of satan which causes pain. Jesus bore the cross and the crown of thorns so that we could be set free. Jesus, in proclaiming the Kingdom, set people free from demons. Jesus takes our curse and gives us his blessing.



EXERCISE:

Think for yourself which of these points are relevant to you. Write down what you want to exchange at the cross of Jesus for each of the points. Look at what surfaces in your heart at each point. What is it you think of?

Is today the time to receive forgiveness and healing of your soul? Are you in need of a change in your heart? Go through what you now believe with your mentor and confess the things that have gone wrong. (Only do this if you think you are ready for it and feel it is good. No one is forcing you to do this.)

Confessing can have a healing effect. It humbles us and makes us open to receive what God has for us. There does need to be a trust between you and your mentor. Agree with your mentor that you will only share things yourself with others if that is necessary and if you really want to.

Get hold of or make a cross. Look at it for a while and then lay a letter at the cross which has everything written in it which you want to give to God. Pray out loud what you have written in the letter. Thank God that He forgives you, heals, sets free and whatever else you can think of.

PRINCIPLE 10

Jesus gave his life for you. He makes it possible through his sacrifice on the cross to live as a son or daughter of God the Father. You are saved through His death, cleansed, set free and the heir of His blessing.



2 Corinthians 5:21

21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 Peter 2:24

24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Romans 3:24

24 And all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 5:8-9

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Isaiah 53:5

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Jeremiah 31:34

34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, "Know the Lord," because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord.
"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Romans 6:23

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

Isaiah 53:4-5

4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Matthew 8:17

17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

2 Corinthians 8:9

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 9:8

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Ephesians 1:20

20 He exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

Hebrews 12:2

2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Galatians 3:13-14

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.