

WEEK 2 SERMON MANUSCRIPT

Series: Christ Our Message

Title: Why Did Christ Die?

Central Text: Isaiah 53:4–6

“Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows... 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... and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

INTRODUCTION

Many people know that Jesus died.
But knowing **that** He died is not the same as knowing **why** He died.

Some think:

- He died as a martyr
- He died to inspire love
- He died to show humility
- He died because of political opposition

But the Bible does not say Christ died mainly as an example.
The Bible says:

“Christ died for our sins.”

If we misunderstand why He died:

- we will mix grace with works
- we will live in fear
- we will relate to God through guilt
- we will turn Christianity into self-effort

So today we answer one question clearly:

Why did Christ die?

1. CHRIST DIED AS OUR SUBSTITUTE

Isaiah 53:4–6

“He was wounded for our transgressions... the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

The word *for* means **in place of**.

Substitution means:

- one person takes another person’s punishment
- one person stands in another person’s place

Christ did not die with us.

Christ died **instead of us**.

1 Peter 2:24 says:

“Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree.”

God did not punish you.

God punished Christ.

If Christ took your punishment:

God cannot punish you again for the same sins.

That would be unjust.

So the cross is not just emotional.

It is **judicial**.

It is God judging sin — in Christ.

2. CHRIST DIED TO SATISFY GOD’S JUSTICE (PROPTIATION)

Romans 3:25

“Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood...”

Propitiation means:

- wrath satisfied
- justice fulfilled
- judgment completed

God is love — but God is also holy and just.

Sin cannot be ignored.
Sin must be judged.

So God judged sin at the cross.

At Calvary:

- justice was satisfied
- wrath was exhausted
- mercy was released

God is not angry with believers.
God is satisfied with Christ.

Your confidence before God is not:
your tears
your prayers
your fasting

Your confidence is:
the blood of Jesus.

3. CHRIST DIED TO PAY A PRICE (REDEMPTION)

Ephesians 1:7

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

Redemption means:

- to buy back
- to ransom
- to pay a price

Sin enslaved humanity.
Death ruled humanity.
The Law condemned humanity.

But Christ paid the price.

Matthew 20:28:

“The Son of Man came... to give His life a ransom for many.”

Salvation is free for us
because it was costly for Him.

You are not owned by sin.
You are not owned by Satan.
You are not owned by fear.

You belong to Christ.

4. CHRIST DIED TO RESTORE RELATIONSHIP (RECONCILIATION)

2 Corinthians 5:18–19

“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them...”

Reconciliation means:

- enemies made friends
- separation removed
- relationship restored

The cross did not change God’s heart toward man.
The cross removed the barrier of sin between God and man.

The problem was not:
God hated man.

The problem was:
sin separated man from God.

The cross removed the separation.

Now God is not distant.
He is near.
He is Father.

5. CHRIST DIED TO FULFILL AND END THE LAW

Galatians 3:13

“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us...”

The Law demands:

- perfect obedience
- continuous obedience
- total obedience

James 2:10 says:

“Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point is guilty of all.”

Christ:

- obeyed the Law perfectly
- bore its curse fully
- ended its authority over believers

Romans 10:4:

“Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

You are not under the Law to be righteous.

You are under Christ.

6. THE CROSS WAS GOD’S PLAN, NOT AN ACCIDENT

Acts 2:23

“Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God...”

The cross was not a mistake.
It was not God’s backup plan.

Revelation calls Jesus:

“The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

Before Adam fell,
Christ was already prepared.

Salvation is not reaction.
Salvation is purpose.

7. WHAT THE CROSS ACCOMPLISHED

Because Christ died:

- ✓ sin is forgiven
- ✓ wrath is satisfied
- ✓ justice is fulfilled
- ✓ Satan is defeated
- ✓ the Law is fulfilled
- ✓ man is reconciled
- ✓ righteousness is given

The cross did not make salvation possible.

The cross made salvation complete.

8. LAW VS GRACE (FOCUS)

The Law says:

- pay
- perform
- obey

Grace says:

- paid
- finished
- received

The Law says:

“Do and live.”

Grace says:

“It is done — now live.”

You don't obey to be accepted.

You obey because you are accepted.

9. BELIEVER IDENTITY

If Christ died for you, then:

You are:

- forgiven
- redeemed
- reconciled
- righteous
- accepted

You are not trying to be accepted.

You are accepted in Christ.

Your prayer is not:

“God, please forgive me.”

Your prayer is:

“Father, thank You for forgiveness.”

Your obedience is not fear-driven.

It is love-driven.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

1. **Stop trying to pay for what Christ already paid for.**
No self-punishment. No penance. Trust the cross.
2. **Relate to God as Father, not Judge.**
Judgment already fell — on Christ.
3. **Preach the cross clearly.**
Not blessings without blood.
Not miracles without meaning.
4. **Rest in redemption.**
Your confidence is not your behavior.
It is Christ’s sacrifice.

CONCLUSION

Why did Christ die?

Not:

- to inspire you
- to motivate you
- to scare you

But:

- to substitute
- to satisfy justice
- to redeem
- to reconcile
- to fulfill the Law

The cross says:

Sin has been judged.

Debt has been paid.

Relationship has been restored.

So we don't live trying to reach God.

We live because God reached us.

And that is why:

Christ is our message.
