

The Purpose of Christ's Death
Reveals the All-Powerful yet Loving God
Heb 2:14-18

Introduction:

- A. Two character traits of God that seem to be contradictory
 - 1. The traits - God is all-p_____ and is graciously l_____ toward human beings
 - 2. Atheist argue that God cannot have both traits
 - a. If He were all-powerful, then He lacks the love to stop e_____ from happening to innocent people.
 - b. If He were graciously loving, then He lacks the power to stop it.
 - 3. Both of these traits are harmonized in the person of Jesus Christ.
 - a. He is the S_____ of God, which is a title of deity (see Message #2 in Hebrews; see also Jn 8:58; Matt 28:9)
 - b. Heb 2:14 – Jesus partook of flesh and blood so that He could accomplish His purpose through d_____.
- B. Our concept of God
 - 1. Must not come from c_____
 - 2. Must come from the p_____ of Christ's death.

To defeat the devil's power (14)

- A. The devil is described as a being who used to hold the power of d_____.
 - 1. He was an angel that along with other angels s_____ against God (2Pet 2:4).
 - 2. He successfully l_____ Adam and Eve into disobedience to God, which brought death on all humanity.
 - a. We all have s_____ (Rom 3:23)
 - b. We all deserve d_____ (Rom 6:23).
- B. God had a counter plan to Satan's attack in place before c_____ the world (1Pet 1:20).
 - 1. God would become h_____ in the person of Jesus
 - 2. God would d_____ the devil by dying Himself.
- C. What did Satan know about God's plan and what did he not know?
 - 1. He knew that Jesus came to s_____ the world of mankind (that is why Satan tempted Jesus – see Matt 4).
 - 2. He knew that Jesus would have to s_____ (God told him this in Gen 3:15)
 - 3. He did not know that Jesus had to d_____ (Jn 13:2 – Satan entered J_____ to bring Jesus to His death).

- D. If Satan is active in the world, how is he defeated?
1. A person is either “in Adam” or “in Christ” (1Cor 15:22)
 - a. All who are “in Adam” d _____
 - b. All who are “in Christ” will be made a _____
 2. Only by t _____ Christ does a person go from being in Adam to being in Christ.
 - a. They immediately receive e _____ life (defined in Jn 17:3 as personally knowing God through Jesus).
 - b. Satan has no p _____ to destroy that relationship (Jn 10:28,29; 1Jn 5:18)
 - c. Death is only t _____ for the believer just as it was for Jesus. Just as He rose from the dead, so He promises to reverse death for believers (1Thess 5:23,24).

To defeat sin’s power (15,16,18)

- A. Unbelievers have been in s _____ all their lives (v. 15)
1. Jesus’ died not only to pay the penalty of sin, but to release people from being e _____ to sin.
 2. Jesus did not do this for a _____ but only for the descendent of Abraham (offspring, seed - v. 16)
 - a. This is not talking about only one particular descendant (He only helped one person) but any descendant.
 - b. Jn 8:34-44 – not all p _____ descendants of Abraham are true descendants.
 - c. F _____ in Christ makes a person a descendant (Gal 3:7).
- B. If believers are released from slavery to sin, why do we sometimes fall to temptation?
1. Freeing us from slavery does not render us i _____ of sinning.
 2. Freeing us from slavery empowers us to c _____ whether or not to sin.
 - a. Jesus comes to our a _____ (v. 18a)
 - b. Jesus understands the s _____ against temptation because He experienced it (v. 18b)
- C. What helpful resources does Jesus give us?
1. A d _____ resource – the Holy Spirit who indwells us (1Cor 6:19), g _____ us on the escape route (Rom 8:14; 1Cor 10:13). Follow His leading.
 2. A w _____ resource – His word, the Bible is there to help us renew our mind and focus on the right thing (Ps 119:11; 2Tim 3:16; Matt 4:4). Fill your mind with God’s word.

3. A h_____ resource – the church is for mutual encouragement in loving God, others, and in doing what is good (Heb 10:24). Stay connected to the church (the people of God).
4. A c_____ resource – prayer strengthens our spirit (Matt 26:41) and brings about God’s help (Heb 4:16). Keep praying until temptation goes away.

D. When a person sins

1. It is not G_____ fault or anyone else’s but totally their fault.
2. It is not a reflection on God’s c_____ but their own choice.
3. God assures us that He works _____ things out for the good of those who love Him (Rom 8:28).

To satisfy God’s wrath (17)

A. The Greek word translated as propitiation (NAS), reconciliation (KJV), atonement (NIV); sacrifice (NLT)

1. It was a c_____ word
2. It refers to a p_____ made to satisfy another’s anger so that they are not angry anymore.

B. God is very angry because of s_____

1. His character demands j_____ (He cannot overlook sin)
2. He l_____ mankind and so is not going to wipe mankind out.
3. “In Christ” God’s justice upon a person’s sin is fully s_____ and His grace upon a person is fully r_____.

Conclusion:

When things happen that cause you to question God’s character

1. Remember that you are wrongly evaluating God through your c_____
2. Refocus on Jesus’ death which
 - a. Defeated Satan’s power of death over you (you have e_____ life).
 - b. Defeated sin’s power over you (you have the Holy Spirit, His word, the church, and prayer as r_____ to overcome sin)
 - c. Fully satisfied God’s wrath upon your sin so you could realize His l_____.