

## **WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?**

*Grace: God's Power to Change Your Life-Week 11*

### **Romans 3:25**

In our study of Romans we now come to one of the most significant verses in the Bible. This verse is the heart of the Gospel - Christ's death on the cross for us. Because this is the most important doctrine in the Bible, we will pause in our verse-by-verse study to look at other passages that explain the atonement.

No single explanation can adequately explain the full meaning of Christ's death. Throughout history, great men have emphasized different aspects of it. To better understand Christ's death, we must look at it from several viewpoints.

#### **I. FIVE MAJOR EXPLANATIONS OF CHRIST'S DEATH:**

##### **1. THE RANSOM EXPLANATION**

**Key words:** Ransom, Payment

**Scriptures:** Mark 10:45, John 8:34-36, Rom. 8:2, Eph. 1:7, Titus 2:14, Revelation 5:9, 1 Cor. 6:20, Isaiah 61:1

##### **2. THE MORAL INFLUENCE EXPLANATION**

**Key words:** Love, Example

**Scriptures:** 1 Peter 2:21-23, 1 Peter 4:1-2, Eph. 5:2, Phil. 2:3-8

##### **3. THE VICTORY EXPLANATION**

**Key words:** Power, Triumph

**Scriptures:** Hebrews 2:14-15, John 16:33, John 19:30, Col. 1:13, 2:14-15, 1 John 3:8, Rev. 17:14, Gal. 1:4

##### **4. THE RELATIONSHIP EXPLANATION**

**Key words:** Mediator, Reconciliation

**Scriptures:** 2 Cor. 5:17, Eph. 2:12-16

## **5. THE SUBSTITUTION EXPLANATION**

Key words: Sacrifice, Atonement

Scriptures: Rom. 3:25, Heb. 9:28, 2 Cor. 5:21, Gal 3:13, Rom. 5:8, 1 Peter 3:18, John 2:2, 1 Cor. 5:7, John 1:21

### **III. WHAT SHOULD BE OUR RESPONSE?**

#### **1. WE OUGHT TO HATE SIN.**

*“Be ye holy even as I am holy.”* 1 Peter 1:16

#### **2. WE OUGHT TO LOVE CHRIST.**

*“We love because He first loved us.”* 1 John 4:19

*“If God loved us enough to send Jesus to die for us don't you think He loves you enough to care for all your other needs?”* Romans 8:32

#### **3. WE OUGHT TO MAKE THE MESSAGE KNOWN.**

*“The love of Christ compels us to share the Good News.”* 2 Cor. 5:14

Scriptures: Luke 15:3-7