



The Double Cross

September 4, 2016

Why Did Jesus Die On the Cross?

- Most people answer: He died for my sins.
- Correct, but if that's all, what do we do once our sins are forgiven?

There Are Two Sides of the Cross

Side One: The BLOOD Side

- The Blood serves a two-fold purpose.

Hebrews 9:22 NIV--- The law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

- First purpose, the forgiveness of sin.
- The wages of sin is death.

Deuteronomy 12:23 NIV--- But be sure you do not eat the blood, because THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE, and you must not eat the life with the meat.

- Second purpose, life is in the blood.
- Why not eat the blood?
- One reason for God's command not to eat bloody meat undoubtedly concerned the sacrifices.
- Blood was the only atonement for sin (2 Chronicles 29:24; Hebrews 9:22); therefore, blood was seen as a sacred thing.
- God wanted to ensure that the blood of the sacrifices was always considered precious.
- To preserve the people's appreciation of the sacrifices, God could not allow blood to become a common food.

John 6:53-58 NIV--- Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

- God forbids drinking the blood of animals, and here Jesus says you have to drink His blood or you have no life.
- Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice.
- There is no other Life than Jesus. He is the Way, the Truth, the LIFE.
- Life is in the Blood of Jesus.

- His Blood cleanses us of our sins and it gives us His life.
- His Blood literally flows through our lives.
- As Jesus lived because of the Father, we live because of Jesus.

The Other Side of the Cross

- The Body side has a two-fold purpose as well.
 - His Body died to pay for our sins.
 - His dead Body rose to resurrected life to give us LIFE.

Romans 6:6-10 NIV--- For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him.

- Because we were IN Christ when He died, our OLD MAN was crucified and died with Him.
- Dead people don't sin. Ain't that something! You are dead to sin and free from its power.
- Because we were IN Christ when He rose, we have ETERNAL LIFE... Jesus IS eternal life.
- We will never die because Jesus can never die again.
- How come you are not shouting about that?

You Are What You Eat

- The over-looked tree in the Garden. THE TREE OF LIFE.
- Jesus IS the Tree of Life.
- Adam and Eve had a choice to eat either tree.
- They chose poorly.

Ephesians 1:4 NIV--- For He (God) chose us in Him (Jesus) before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.

- Adam and Eve was IN Christ in the Garden, but Christ was not IN them... yet.
- He could have been had they eaten the Tree of Life instead of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Christ would have then been IN them and they would have lived by the LIFE of Christ as Christ lived by the LIFE of His Father.

Christ: Our Passover Lamb

Exodus 12:1-13 NLT--- While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the LORD gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron: ² "From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you. ³ Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household. ⁴ If a family is too small to eat a whole animal, let them share with another family in the neighborhood. Divide the animal according to the size of each family and how much they can eat. ⁵ The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, with no defects.

⁶ "Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight. ⁷ They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the

animal.⁸ That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad greens and bread made without yeast.⁹ Do not eat any of the meat raw or boiled in water. The whole animal—including the head, legs, and internal organs—must be roasted over a fire.¹⁰ Do not leave any of it until the next morning. Burn whatever is not eaten before morning.

¹¹ "These are your instructions for eating this meal: Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand. Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the LORD's Passover.¹² On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the LORD!¹³ But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.

- God forbids that we eat the lamb “raw” or “boiled”.
- Eating Christ “raw” is to take Christ as our example and try to imitate Him; this is the way the modernists take, rejecting Christ’s redemption.
- Eating Christ “boiled” means regarding Christ’s death on the cross as persecution and martyrdom; C
- hrist was not merely persecuted or martyred by man but [He was judged by God](#) on the cross for our redemption.
- Hallelujah, our Christ is the Redeemer, the Lamb of God who became sin for us was roasted by the fire of God’s judgement on the cross for our redemption and our Life free from the power of sin on the earth.

What is God Like?

- He kept Adam and Eve away from the Tree of Life.
- He came into the home where the blood was over the doorpost.

Romans 8:31-32 NIV--- What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?³² He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all — how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?

Luke 12:32-34 MSG--- Don't be afraid of missing out. You're my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself.³³ "Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that can't go bankrupt, a bank in heaven far from bankrobbers, safe from embezzlers, a bank you can bank on.³⁴ It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

Matthew 13:43-46 MSG--- "Are you listening to this? Really listening?

⁴⁴ "God's kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field for years and then accidentally found by a trespasser. The finder is ecstatic — what a find! — and proceeds to sell everything he owns to raise money and buy that field.

⁴⁵ "Or, God's kingdom is like a jewel merchant on the hunt for excellent pearls.⁴⁶ Finding one that is flawless, he immediately sells everything and buys it.

The Lord's Communion

Psalm 34:8 MSG--- Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see — how good GOD is. Blessed are you who run to him.