

**WHAT the BIBLE TEACHES about GOD and JESUS CHRIST**

**Lesson 6 - Part 5**

**THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST**

**Wrong ways to think of the death of Jesus Christ**

1. For how many people did Christ die?

How did God reconcile us to Himself?

Because God reconciled us to Himself through Christ

- we have
- we have
- we have

Who only receives peace with God?

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2. Christ died for all people. God reconciled us to Himself through the death of Christ. Because we have been reconciled to God, we have a new life. We are made right with God and we have peace with God. Only those who receive Christ have this reconciliation or peace with God.

We have studied the right way to think of the death of Christ. Many people think of the death of Christ like we have studied in these lessons. We know it is the right way because the Bible teaches it this way.

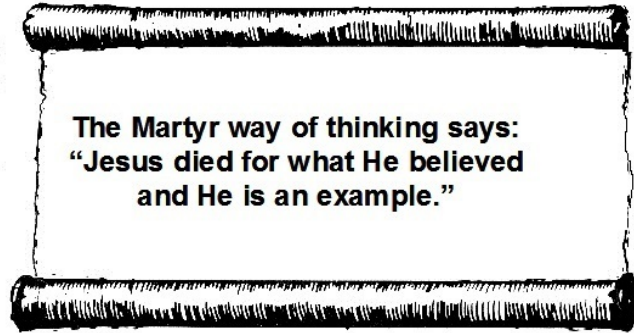
In this lesson we will look at two wrong ways to think of the death of Christ.

Why do you think we should know something about wrong ways of thinking of the death of Christ?

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3. As we witness about Christ, we may meet some people who have wrong thoughts about the death of Christ.

First, let us look at the example or martyr way of thinking. A martyr is one who willingly dies for what he believes. A martyr will rather die than give up what he believes. Stephen is called a martyr. He was killed because he would not give up his belief in Christ.



**Read** Acts 7:57-60. Stephen was a martyr. Why was he a martyr?

Did Paul preach forgiveness of sin through Stephen?

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4. A martyr is one who willingly dies for what he believes. Stephen was a martyr because he was willing to die for what he believed. Paul did not preach forgiveness of sin through Stephen. Stephen is an example of a Christian who was true to what he believed. He was willing to die for what he believed. If Jesus Christ died only as a martyr or as an example, it would not have been enough to forgive our sins.

We learned in Part 2 of this lesson that God had to be propitiated or appeased. We learned that only someone without sin could do this. The death of Jesus satisfied God's just requirement or penalty for sin. When God's justice is satisfied, He can forgive sin. **Read** Romans 3:24-26.

Romans 3:24 (NLB)

*Anyone can be made right with God by the free gift of his loving-favor. It is Jesus Christ Who bought them with His blood and made them free from their sins.*

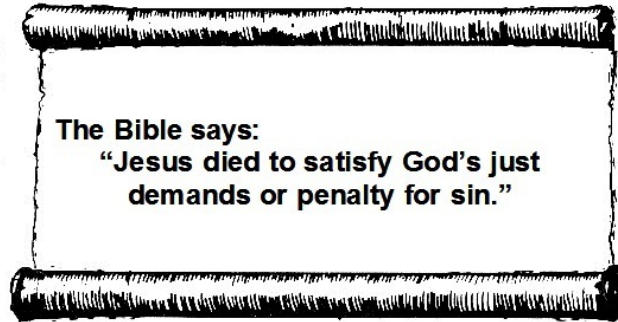
Romans 3:25,26

*God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate (show) his justice, because in his forbearance (patience) he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished - he did it to demonstrate (show) his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies the man who has faith in Jesus.*

How can we be made right with God?

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5. We can be made right with God because Jesus Christ bought us with His blood and made us free from our sins. The death of Jesus Christ is not an example, it is a payment for sin. Unless we have first been made right with God, we cannot follow the example of Christ's life.



1 John 4:10

*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

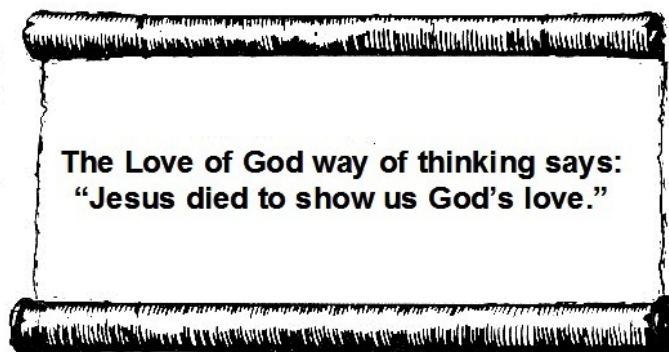
Did Jesus Christ die as a martyr?

Why?

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6. Jesus Christ did not die as a martyr. His death is the atoning sacrifice for our sin.

Another wrong way of thinking is the moral way of thinking about the death of Christ. It is also called "the love of God way of thinking." These people say that God chose to show His love in this way and to show His fellowship with them in suffering. They say that the love of God is shown in this way to bring sinners to Himself.



Yes, the death of Christ showed God's great love (Romans 5:6-8). The death of Christ shows **more than** the love of God. It makes **the way** for people to come back to God.

Jeremiah 31:3

*The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."*

What did people know about the love of God in the Old Testament times?

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7. The people in the Old Testament times knew God loved them with an everlasting love. People knew God loved them a long time before He sent His Son into this world. The people in the Old Testament who loved God, made sacrifices for their sin.

Hebrews 9:28

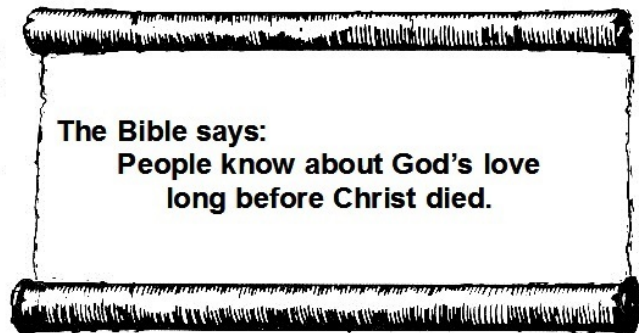
*So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

Why did Christ die?

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8. Christ once and for all made a sacrifice for the sins of many people.

When a tragedy happens, people feel bad about it. For a while people try to live right, but soon the tragedy is forgotten. Tragedy in itself does not often bring true repentance. Just to feel sorry that Christ died on the cross will not make people repent or turn from their sin.



Why is the moral way of thinking or "the love of God" way of thinking of the death of Christ not right?

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9. The moral way of thinking or “the love of God way of thinking” is not right because people knew God loved them long before Christ died. Also Christ's death was a sacrifice for our sin.

What does the martyr way of thinking say?

Why is this wrong?

What does the moral or love of God way of thinking say?

Why is this wrong?

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10. We have learned in this lesson:

- The martyr way of thinking says, “Jesus died for what He believed and He is an example.” This way of thinking is wrong because Jesus died to satisfy God's just demands or penalty for sin.
- The moral way of thinking says that Jesus Christ died to show us God's love. This is wrong because people knew about God's love long before Christ died. When Christ died, He made a sacrifice for sin.

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11. Which answer is right?

Jesus Christ died:

- to satisfy God's just demands or penalty for sin.
- as an example for people.

Jesus Christ died:

- to make a sacrifice for sin.

- just to show God's love.

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12. **Write** out 1 Peter 1:18,19.

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### Questions from Week 6

1. Who is holy?
2. Who is sinful?
3. How can sinful people come to God?
  
4. In the Old Testament, who talked about Jesus' death?
  
5. In the New Testament, who talked about Jesus' death?
  
6. How is Jesus Christ a substitute for us?
  
7. How did Jesus Christ propitiate (appease) God's wrath?
  
8. Who gave His life as a ransom for many?
9. From what did Jesus Christ redeem us?
  - from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law
  - from all \_\_\_\_\_

- from our empty
- from the fear
- from the power

10. To whom do we belong?

Why?

11. For how many people did Christ die?

12. How did God reconcile us to Himself?

13. Because God reconciled us to Himself through Christ:

- we have
- we have
- we have

14. Who only receives peace with God?

15. Which answer is right?

Jesus Christ died:

- to satisfy God's just demands or penalty for sin.
- as an example for people.

Jesus Christ died:

- to make a sacrifice for sin.
- just to show God's love.

16. **Write** out 1 Peter 1:18,19.

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