

Genesis to Revelation: The Greatest Story
Life Group Notes Week Beginning 14th July 2019

READ Acts 2:14-24

Q. What does verse 23 tell us about those behind the crucifixion of Jesus?

READ John 10:11-18

Q. What do these verses tell us about the nature of Jesus' death?

Q. Do you think of Christ like a martyr? Would the verses in John challenge such thinking?

Q. What did Christ achieve at the cross? How was this accomplished?

The death of Christ achieves victory over Satan, it also reveals to us what God is like....

Think of the following phrases and ask yourselves – How does the cross inform us about these things?

- The glory of God
- The justice of God
- The love of God
- The wisdom of God

Whilst victory over Satan and the revelation of God are aspects of the cross, the salvation of sinners, or God's rescue, is at the heart of the cross.

Q. Is it sufficient to say that the cross is merely a demonstration of God's love and therefore inspires us to live better lives? Why/why not?

We need more than inspiration to live better, we need salvation from our inability to live lives which honour God due to sin.

God, through the cross of Christ....

1. Deals with the Father's righteous wrath towards sin – **READ Rom 1:18 and Rom 2:5**

Q. What is wrath?

Q. Why is God wrathful or angry?

Q. How does God's anger differ from the sinful anger we often express?

We would expect a holy God to be angry about sin and the destruction it has brought to his world. As the perpetrators of that sin we stand to take the punishment, which the Bible makes clear is death – Christ pays the price on our behalf. Praise God!

2. Redeems us

Q. What does it mean to redeem?

“the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt”.

READ Mark 10:45 – Q. What does this verse tell us?

3. Justifies us

Q. Why is justice crucial to God?

Q. What would it say about sin and God if He merely let humanity “off the hook”?

Q. How are we justified and made right with God? – **See Rom 3:28-30**

Though we have sinned against God, justice has been satisfied, Christ has paid it all – **See Rom 8:33-35**

4. Reconciles us

READ Rom 5:10-11 and 2 Cor 5:17-19

These verses affirm that because Christ has bore the wrath of the Father, redeemed us and justified us through his death and resurrection we are made right with God – we are reconciled!

The resurrection vindicates Christ – he is who the whole Bible said he is ... the saviour of all who look to him in faith.

Our sin is incredibly serious – the brutality of the cross shows us how serious. It also speaks of a God who would give his only Son to rescue a broken and lost world.

Spend time praising God for his salvation and asking God that we would never lose the wonder at how amazing his grace and love is. Ask that we might be fruitful followers of Christ demonstrating through all we do and say that Jesus is the rescuer.

Paul 😊