

## THE BIBLE VIEW

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Theme: Sacrifice

### Why Jesus?

*Bill Brinkworth*

While many ascertain “Jesus is the Saviour, “He is God’s son,” or “He died for our sins,” many do not know why Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross was so essential. Although having the correct answers about God’s only begotten Son is important, that knowledge alone will not get anyone a place in Heaven. However, understanding why only Jesus’ death was necessary and trusting His sacrifice can save a sinner from an eternity in Hell.

The first glimpse of why God’s Son would have to die a terrible death on the cruel Cross was shown in the account of mankind’s first sin committed by Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:6). After judging the two and Satan for diobedience, God had to kill an animal so the people’s nakedness would be covered with the animals’s skin.

*“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.” Ge 3:21”*

The death of an innocent animal was the first sacrifice to cover sins. Its death did not take away Adam and Eve’s sin; it only covered it. It was temporary, and from then on, other animals were killed to cover the nakedness that followed afterwards. Blood had to be shed to keep people’s inherited and committed sins covered.

After the flood, Noah built an altar. He sacrificed innocent animals as an offering to the Lord, who spared them from the ravaging flood. Blood had to be shed to please the Lord and show their gratitude.

*“And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake; for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.” Genesis 8:20-21*

Later, Moses, the leader of Israel, was instructed to build the first place of worship. It was a mobile tent that would be erected wherever God’s people traveled. As lavish as the tabernacle was, worship of God was not complete unless animal sacrifices were performed. Again, only the life-giving fluid of innocent animals was given to please God and cover mankind’s iniquities..

In time, the tent was replaced with a permanent Temple in Jerusalem. The shedding of blood was still needed to please God, as a temporary appeasement for man’s sin. God would and will not accept anything else to cover man’s iniquities.

The temporary blood sacrifices were performed during much of the Old Testament times. However, at one point they were missed and at times not performed at all. There was no “covering” of sins.

Finally, and a need realized from the beginning, God changed the offering of the temporary sin-coverings to one that would be sufficient for the rest of mankind’s time on Earth. The one-time offering was the blood of God’s only sin-innocent Son, Jesus.

Jesus’ blood sacrifice was for all man’s sins. The blood of animals was not sufficient to cover one’s sins from God’s memory. Early animal sacrifices were only to prepare people for the perfect permanent sacrifice for iniquities that God allowed to be sacrificed.

*“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.” Hebrews 8:12*

*“And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.” Hebrews 10:17*

God allowed one sacrifice that would blot out all of one’s sins to be offered. It, again, included a blood offering from an innocent. God gave his only born Son, Jesus, to be that sin offering.

*“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” I Peter 3:18*

*“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.” Romans 5:6*

For those admitting their sins and trusting Jesus’ death was payment for their sin, His sacrifice is enough to be payment for anyone who believes and asks. One can be saved from eternal torment.

*“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9*

*“And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.” Hebrews 9:15*

Good deeds, religious acts, self-denial, and being a nice person are unacceptable offerings that will not pay for the penalty of one’s sins, which is Hell. According to God’s Word, the only means to have anyone’s sins forgiven is to have innocent blood as payment for one’s transgressions.

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9*

*“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,” II Timothy 1:9*

Jesus was not just a man who died a cruel death. He was the only sacrificial offering God will accept as payment for anyone’s iniquities. Have you admitted you are a sinner deserving of an eternal Hell, and then are convinced that the only way to Heaven is by trusting Jesus’ sacrifice is enough? Is Jesus your Saviour?

**“The sacrifice of Jesus is the true reason for our salvation.” — Spurgeon**

## He Gave All He Had

*Edited from the "Young People's Weekly"*

An account is told of a hero of the Chinese rice fields during an earthquake. From his hilltop farm, a farmer felt the quake and saw the distant ocean swiftly withdrawing from the shoreline like some animal crouching back for a leap. He knew that the leap would soon be a tidal wave.

In the valleys below, he saw his neighbors working in the low fields that soon would be flooded and where many would perish. "They must all come up here on the hill to survive," he thought.

He had an idea that would get the endangered farmers quickly to safety. His rice barns were dry as tinder. With a torch, he set them on fire and rang the fire gong.

Soon, his neighbors saw the smoke and rushed to help. From their safe perch on the hill, they saw the waters cover the fields where they had just left.

They quickly realized that their salvation was due to the quick sacrifice of their considerate neighbor. He gave his all so that others would be spared.

A monument was erected in memory of his deed. On the stone was the motto, "He gave us all he had, and gave it gladly." All Christians should also have a similar concern for the souls of perishing neighbors.

**"It is what we give up, not what we lay up, that adds to our lasting store."** — *Ballou*

## Sacrifice for the Furtherance of the Gospel

*Heart and Life Bulletin*

George Atley, a young Englishman with the heart of a hero, was engaged in the Central African Mission. A party of natives attacked him.

He had with him a Winchester repeating rifle with ten loaded chambers. The party was completely at his mercy.

Calmly and quickly, he summed up the situation. He concluded that if he killed them, it would do the mission more harm than if he allowed them to take his life. As a lamb to the slaughter, he allowed himself to be taken. When his body was found in the stream, his rifle was also discovered with its ten chambers still loaded.

**"One of our greatest concerns should be about the eternal residency of our neighbors."** — *Brinkworth*

## Much Was Sacrificed

*Dr. R. W. Ketchum*

Do not be indifferent to Christianity and take it lightly. It was given to you by the blood of Christ and preserved for you by the blood of martyrs.

For almost the first three hundred years, Christianity was a forbidden religion. Many of its adherents were publicly whipped and dragged by their heels through the streets until their brains ran out. Some had their limbs torn off, ears and noses were cut off, and eyes were dug out with sharp sticks or burned out with hot irons. To some, sharp knives were run under their fingernails. Melted lead was poured on many. Others were drowned, beheaded, crucified, ground between stones, torn by wild beasts, smothered in lime kilns, scraped to death by sharp shells, and killed by other horrendous means.

In 1651 in Massachusetts, Reverend Obadiah Holmes was ordered to be whipped by Governor Endicott for holding a prayer meeting in his home. So severe was the whipping that for days he could lie only by resting on the tips of his elbows and his knees, and yet when the last lash had fallen, he looked at his tormentors and, through bloodstained lips, cried, "Gentlemen, you have whipped me with roses!"

A redeeming Christ has given you a future filled with hope and joy. Do not look lightly upon this thing called Christianity, which cost the Son of God His blood, and millions of His followers their lives.

***"What is your offering for the cause of Christ. If we don't tell or show them, who will?" — Brinkworth***