

“The Power of Jesus’ Death and Resurrection”
“Know What You Believe” — Part 10
1 Peter 1:18-21

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

1. God’s wrath is our central obstacle to overcome.

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him. John 3:36

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.
Romans 1:18-19

They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"
Revelation 6:16-17

Who can stand before a holy God?

2. The cross is God’s answer to our great need.

- The cross of Christ is the ultimate expression of God’s love.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

- The cross is more than an expression of love; it also had a powerful effect.

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.
Hebrews 2:14-15

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:15

3. Jesus was born to die.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

“No one takes it (*my life*) from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again...”
John 10:18

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19:30

- The blood of Jesus became a common way of speaking of Jesus' death as a saving, sacrificial act.

...the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus... Hebrews 10:19

4. Questions people often ask:

- Why can't God just forgive everyone?

Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent—the Lord detests them both. Proverbs 17:15

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God "will give to each person according to what he has done." To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

Romans 2:5-8

...There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood...

Romans 3:22-25

- How can one person take on another person's punishment?

Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. Hebrews 7:27

Substitution lies at the heart of both sin and salvation.

"The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be.

Man claims the prerogatives which belong only to God alone: God accepts the penalties which belong to man alone."

John Stott

5. The resurrection validates and demonstrates the power of Jesus' work on the cross.

...if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied. But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:17-21, NASB

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Acts 2:36-37

***The human court condemned Jesus.
By the resurrection, God overturned the verdict!***

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

Application: Jesus is declared to be our substitute and the perfect and all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. On the cross Jesus saves us from the wrath of God. By His resurrection, the work of Jesus is proved powerful to save, and demonstrates His victory over the grave. By the resurrection of Jesus, His victory becomes our victory.

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Philippians 3:20-21