

## 5. Jesus Christ, The Sinner's Only Hope—How Can I Be Saved?

If no one and nothing in this world can save you, can you be saved? Remember, the standard that must be maintained and satisfied is God's **holiness**. As sinners we have nothing to expect from God except His wrath and judgment.

How then can you be right with God? Your sin must be forgiven and you must be righteous before God.

- Guilt must be removed
- Sin's power must be broken
- Sin's penalty must be fully paid
- You must be reconciled to God

You cannot take care of any of these things. Your only hope is if God would show His **love** to you which you do not deserve—if He would show **grace** and **mercy**. Has God shown His love—His grace and mercy? Yes, He has!

**John 3:16** “For God so **loved** the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life”

**Rom 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own **love** toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”

**Eph 2:1-9** “<sup>1</sup>And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. <sup>3</sup>Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in **mercy**, because of His great **love** with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by **grace** you have been saved), <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His **grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by **grace** you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup>not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

No one and nothing in this world can forgive your sin and make you righteous before God. The only one who can forgive sin and make one righteous is God!

How can God do this for a guilty, condemned sinner?

**Acts 13:38-39** “<sup>38</sup>Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him [Jesus] **forgiveness of sins** is proclaimed to you, <sup>39</sup>and through Him everyone who believes is **freed** from all things, from which you could not be **freed** through the Law of Moses.”

- “Freed” translates the same Greek word [δικαιόω, *dikaioō*] that is translated elsewhere “justified.” To *justify* is to **declare** righteous—to have a righteous **standing** before God.

**God showed His gracious and merciful love for sinners by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to **live** and **die** for sinners.**

Who is this Jesus? What did He do? How can your sins be forgiven through Him? How can you be declared righteous before God through Jesus?

## 1) Who is Jesus Christ?

- Jesus is **God**, the Eternal Son (fully God)

**Matt 1:23** "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and **they shall call his name Immanuel,**' which translated means, '**God with us.**'"

**John 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**"

**John 5:17-18** <sup>17</sup>"But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."<sup>18</sup>For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was **calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.**" See also John 10:30-33

**Rom 9:5** "whose are the fathers, and from whom is the **Christ** according to the flesh, **who is over all, God blessed forever.** Amen"

**Col 2:9** "In Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form"

**Titus 2:13** "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of **our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus**"

**Heb 1:8** "But **of the Son** He says, "your throne, **O God,** is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom."

**2 Pet 1:1** "Simon Peter...to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of **our God and Savior, Jesus Christ**"

**1 John 5:20** "And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in **Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life**"

Jesus was fully God—in addition to the above texts that clearly say He was God, Jesus had the attributes of God (Matt 8:26-27; 28:20; John 1:4; 2:24-25; 14:6; Heb 13:8; 1 John 5:11; 3:5), **did things only God can do** (Matt 16:18; Mark 2:5-12; John 1:3; 5:21; 14:14; Col 1:17; Heb 1:2), **and was worshiped** (Matt 14:31-33; 28:9-10, 16-18; John 5:23; 9:35-39; Phil 2:10-11; Rev 5:8).

- Jesus is God in Flesh (incarnate), fully **human**

**Matt 1:23** "Behold, the virgin shall be with **child** and shall bear **a son**, and they shall call his name Immanuel,' which translated means, 'God with us.'"

**Luke 1:30-35** <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God."<sup>31</sup>"And behold, you will **conceive in your womb** and **bear a son**, and you shall name Him **Jesus**.<sup>32</sup>"He will be great and will be **called the Son of the Most High**; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;<sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and **His kingdom will have no end.**"<sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"<sup>35</sup>The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon

you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy **Child** shall be called **the Son of God.**"

**Luke 24:39** "See My **hands** and My **feet**, that it is I Myself; **touch Me and see**, for a spirit does not have **flesh and bones** as you see that I have"

**John 1:14** "And **the Word became flesh**, and **dwelt among us**, and **we saw** His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

**Rom 5:15** "much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of **the one Man, Jesus Christ**, abound to the many"

**1 Tim 2:5** "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, **the man** Christ Jesus"

**1 Tim 3:16** "By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: **He who was revealed in the flesh**, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory."

Jesus was fully human. While being 100% God, He was also 100% human. Jesus' humanity was no different from any other human being—He was born (Luke 2:5, 12), experienced human growth and development (Luke 2:40, 52), had appetites (Matt 4:2; John 19:28), grew tired (John 4:6), slept (Matt 8:24), and suffered and died (Luke 22:44; John 19:30).

Who is Jesus Christ?

Statement: *Jesus was fully God and fully man, the God-man.*

## 2) What Did Jesus Do?

- Jesus Lived a **Perfect** Life

**John 15:10** "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as **I have kept My Father's commandments** and abide in His love."

**Rom 5:19** "For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through **the obedience of the One** the many will be made righteous."

**2 Cor 5:21** "He made Him **who knew no sin** to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him"

**Heb 4:15** "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, **yet without sin.**"

**1 Pet 2:22** "who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth"

**1 John 3:5** "You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and **in Him there is no sin.**"

Because Jesus was born of a virgin, He did not have a sin **nature** (cf. p. 17). Therefore, Jesus had nothing which temptation could connect to or to which it could appeal.

- Jesus Died as a **Substitute**— the Righteous for the Unrighteous

**2 Cor 5:21** “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin **on our behalf**, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

**Gal 3:13** “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, **having become a curse for us**”

**1 Pet 2:24** “He Himself bore **our sins in His body** on the cross”

**1 John 2:2** “He Himself is the propitiation **for our sins**; and not **for** ours only, but also **for** those of the whole world.”

**See also**—Mark 14:24; John 6:51; 10:11, 15; Rom 5:6; 8:3; 14:15; 2 Cor 5:14-15; Gal 1:4; 2:20; Heb 2:9; 1 Pet 2:21; 3:18

What does it mean that Jesus died “for” us? That He was our “substitute”?

- Jesus did not become an **actual** sinner—the pollution and corruption of our sin was not transferred to Him; He was not *actually* guilty of sin
- This is a **legal** thing—from the standpoint of God’s Law, all that our sin deserved and demanded was transferred to Jesus

Cf. **Phile 18-19**—Paul was willing to take the liabilities or consequences of Onesimus’s wrongdoing—he did not actually become a thief, though.

Jesus became a **voluntary** substitute for sinners—He substituted Himself to suffer the punishment of our sin (He didn’t die as a martyr or political revolutionary).

- Jesus **Rose** from the Dead

**1 Cor 15:4** “and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures”

- (1) Jesus’ resurrection from the dead was a **miracle**

**Eph 1:19-20** “<sup>19</sup>These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might <sup>20</sup>which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places”

- (2) Jesus’ resurrection from the dead was **bodily**

**John 19:38-42** Jesus’ dead body was taken from the cross and put in a tomb, from which that same body was raised

**Luke 24:39, 46** “<sup>39</sup>See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>46</sup>and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,”

- (3) Jesus' resurrection from the dead is essential for **salvation**

**Rom 4:25** "He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification"

**Rom 10:9** "if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"

**1 Cor 15:17** "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins"

Only a *living* Savior can finally triumph over all the effects of sin, and only a *living* Lord can save.

- (4) Jesus' resurrection from the dead proves His **deity**

**Acts 2:24** "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power"

**Rom 1:4** "who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord"

- (5) Jesus' resurrection from the dead enables His future **judgment** of the world

**Acts 17:31** "because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead"

Jesus claimed that God would judge the world through Him (John 5:22, 27-29). How can people know that judgment day is coming? Because Christ has risen from the dead. This sure fact of the past points indisputably to the sure judgment of the future.

What did Jesus do?

Statement: *Jesus lived a perfect life, died as a perfect substitute for sinners, and rose from the dead.*