

# THE CROSS Why Did Jesus Have to Die? Text: Romans 5:6–11

## *The Wrath of God and the Love of God are Both Revealed at the Cross*

### Introduction:

1. **Imagine a Court of Law is conducting a trial in which a Heinous crime has shocked the nation...**
    - a. But because of a loophole in the law, and because of a good defense lawyer...  
the Guilty Criminal goes free...
    - b. But an innocent man is framed and spends the rest of his life in prison!
  2. **A Tragedy of Justice has taken place...**
    - a. The Guilty Lied to the Court to Appease His Own Guilt and escape Just punishment...
    - b. But the Innocent was Framed to Pay for the Crime of the Guilty!
  3. **There is the Brutality of the 1st Crime Against the Innocent**  
**Then the brutality of the 2nd crime against the Innocent!**
    - a. **This is a Dilemma of Justice & Injustice... but it is also a Divine Dilemma—  
—How can God be just and justify sinners?**
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## I. THE WRATH OF GOD

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### A. THE WRATH OF GOD IS AGAINST ALL SIN

1. **God's Wrath is PURE — Because God is Pure**
2. **The Wrath of God is REAL—defined as: 'deep, intense anger & indignation'**
  - a) **CHARA** "to burn with fury." **CHARON** "burning fierce wrath"  
The anger of God against unrepentant sin (**Jer 7:16-17; 20**)
  - b) **EBRA** "intense anger" of God against sin (**Isaiah 13:9,11,13**)
3. **God's Wrath is PERSONAL**
  - a) 1st, because all of God's divine attributes are personal
  - b) 2nd because **Our Sin is Personal—committed against a Personal God**
  - c) "... to construe God's wrath as simply in his purpose to punish sin or to secure the connection between sin and misery is to equate wrath with its effects and virtually eliminate wrath as a movement within the mind of God. Wrath is the holy revulsion of God's being against that which is the contradiction of his holiness." (Murray)
  - d) His Wrath is an Intense and Personal Reaction to Sin within the Heart of God

### B. THE WRATH OF GOD IS THE HOLY REVULSION OF HIS BEING AGAINST EVIL

1. **His Holy Wrath is against all unrighteousness (**Romans 1:18**)**
2. **His Holy Wrath against every wicked deed (**Romans 2:5–8**)**
3. **His Holy Wrath is Against All Sin—and All Have Sinned! (**Rom. 3:23**)**

## **C. HOW CAN GOD WHO IS HOLY ACCEPT WHAT IS EVIL?**

### **1. HOW CAN GOD BE JUST, and HOLY and GOOD**

**and Condone What is Unjust, Unholy and Evil?**

### **2. THE ANSWER: HE CANNOT!**

- a) GOD CANNOT CALL WHAT IS EVIL GOOD AND GOOD EVIL
- b) God Cannot Call the Truth a Lie and the Lie the Truth

### **3. God is Holy, Just and Righteous—He Cannot accept sin and injustice**

- a) **Just like we refuse to punish the innocent for the crimes of the guilty!**

### **4. God Does Not Condone Evil—He Condemns It (Rev. 11:18)**

- a) Whether You are an Atheist, or an Agnostic or a Moralist or Intellectual or whatever
- b) No one can stop Judgement Day

### **5. All of this Reveals a Divine Dilemma...**

**How Can God Condemn the Sinner—and Save the Sinner?**

**How Can God be Just—and Justify a Sinner to be Saved?**

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## **II. THE CROSS OF CHRIST**

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### **A. THE PHYSICAL AGONY OF THE CRUCIFIXION**

#### **1. THE SCOURGING— Pilate Orders Jesus to be Scourged (Mark 15:15–20)**

- a) Scourging is a Form of Whipping a Criminal Prior to Crucifixion
- b) The Victim is Forcibly Stripped of His Outer Cloths & Hands Tied to a Post  
Then the Awful Scourging is Carried Out By Roman Soldiers
- c) The Roman Whip was called a Flagrum—a “Cat-of-nine-tails”  
...which had pieces of bone & metal to lacerate the flesh of the victim
- d) Jewish Law Limited the Number of Lashes to 40 — but Romans Had No Limit
- e) One Purpose of Scourging was to Extract a Confession...
- f) Roman Soldiers beat the victim harder and harder until they confessed their crime.
- g) But Jesus had nothing to confess, so the blows never lightened on His back.
- h) After Whipping Him, Mocking Him and Spitting on Him, they Crucified Him

#### **2. THE CRUCIFIXION (Mark 15:21–32)**

- a) Crucifixion was the Most Cruel & Prolonged Form of Execution Known to Man  
So Horrible that it Was Against Roman Law to Crucify a Roman Citizen
- b) No Word Could Describe the Pain so a Word Had to be Invented: Excruciating  
In Latin Excruciating Literally Means “Out of the Cross”
- c) Jesus Hung on the Cross for 6 Excruciating Hours from 9am to 3pm
- d) He was offered a wine mixed with myrrh that would dull the pain but He refused...

“The first wine (mixed with myrrh) was designed to dull Jesus’ pain, to keep him from having to endure the cross with full consciousness. This wine he refused. And the second (sour vinegar) wine was given to keep him ‘conscious for as long as possible,’ and thus having the effect of prolonging his pain. This is the wine Jesus drank.” -David Mathis

- e) Thus Jesus felt the full extent of the pain on the cross
- f) At the cross, he drank the bitter cup of the Father’s wrath down to its very dregs,

## **B. THE SPIRITUAL AGONY OF THE CRUCIFIXION**

### **1. But Even Worse than Physical Agony is the Spiritual Agony (Mk 15:33–39)**

- a) Jesus is experiencing 2 things He has never experienced before...
- b) FIRST Jesus has never experienced Death...
- c) SECOND: Jesus has Never Experienced the Wrath of God upon Himself  
The Full Penalty of Sin

### **2. Jesus has the Divine power to call 12 legions of angels**

**and you can bet they wanted to be called to stop this injustice!**

**But There is a Bigger Plan**

## **C. IN THE DARKNESS A TRADE IS TAKING PLACE**

### **1. On a barren hill outside Jerusalem called Golgotha—the Place of the skull**

- a) Jesus became the propitiation for our sin (1 John 2:2)
- b) Propitiation is a Theological term that means:

***an offering that turns away wrath and restores a right relationship***

*In the O.T. the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement and bring with him the blood of a lamb. When he sprinkled the blood on the Mercy Seat, that blood was accepted by God as an “atonement” or a “covering” for the sin of the people.*

### **2. Jesus blood on cross turned away God’s wrath against us (Romans 5:6–9)**

—> In saving us from His own wrath, God has done what we could not do,  
—and He has done what we did not deserve.

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## **III. OUR DEBT PAID IN FULL**

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### **A. TETELESTAI: IT IS FINISHED**

#### **1. When a Criminal is crucified, the charge against him is nailed to the cross**

- a) Nailed above Jesus on the cross was a charge against Him...  
*‘This is Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews’*
- b) It was the charge of insurrection, punishable by death by Roman Law
- c) Crucifixion was the Punishment of the Law—>Death was the Payment to the Law

#### **2. In Ancient Times when a Debt Was Owed it was Written Down...**

- a) A Written list what was owed called a Certificate of Debt...
- b) But When the Debt was Paid, One Word was written Across the Certificate

#### **3. The Word Tetelestai: Translated: “It is Finished.”**

- a) It means: “cancelled out” – Completed, Finished, Done, Paid in Full
- b) This is the exact word Jesus Utters from the Cross (John 19:30)

### **B. OUR CERTIFICATE OF DEBT**

#### **1. Unseen to the soldiers and witness at the cross—**

**there was another charge nailed to the cross**

- a) Not against Jesus but Against Us
- b) Crimes Punishable by Death—our Sins against God (Colossians 2:13–14 ESV)

#### **2. JESUS PAID OUR DEBT IN FULL AT THE CROSS!**

- a) When Jesus said: It is Finished... He gave up His spirit
- b) and the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom

**3. Jesus death Had Opened the Way to God (Hebrews 10:19–20)**

**C. JESUS PAID OUR DEBT IN FULL BY TAKING THE WRATH OF GOD AGAINST SIN UPON HIMSELF...**

**AND THEN HE MADE A TRADE FOR US WE DID NOT DESERVE**

- 1. The Bible uses theological terms to describe this trade...  
terms like Redemption, Justification, Propitiation, Sanctification**

- 2. But Paul simply states it this way in: (2 Corinthians 5:21)**

**AT THE CROSS JESUS MADE A TRADE FOR US:**

Jesus was born in the Flesh — So We Could be Born of the Spirit

Jesus Became Like Us — So We Could Become Like Him

Jesus took our sin — So we could be clothed in His righteousness

Jesus became a Curse — So We Could Become Blessed

Jesus was put to Death — So We Could be Made Alive

Jesus became a man of sorrows — so we could have everlasting Joy

- 3. Not Only Was Our Sins Forgiven...**

**He Clothes Us in His Righteousness! (Galatians 3:26–27)**

**D. A FREE GIFT OF GRACE – Purchased at a Terrible Cost**

- 1. G.R.A.C.E. G–God’s R–Riches A–At C–Christ’s E–Expense**

- 2. (Eph 2:1, 5, 8-10) Saved by Grace through Faith:**

**Not of Works — It is a gift (grace)**

a) “When men do try to work their way into God’s favor, one of two things will happen. Sincere, honest men will despair of ever succeeding; smug, ignorant men will boast....”

**b) God’s way of salvation eliminates both Human Despair and Human Pride**

(Kenneth Boles, College Press)

- 3. We are saved by Grace Through Faith...**

**a) God Did His Part: GRACE a free gift that paid our debt in full**

**b) We Must Do Our Part: FAITH: Trusting obedience**

c) There is no contradiction...

d) Just as if a benefactor said he would pay all your debt in full

e) But you need to sign up for the program, & go to the bank to cash the check

**CONCLUSION:**

- 1. This explains Why Jesus is the Only Way to the Father**

- 1. Only Jesus could be the perfect atoning sacrifice for sin
- 2. No one else can do this except God Himself!
- 3. Which is Why You Cannot Find Grace Anywhere else

- 2. And this Grace is Now Available as you walk with Him (1 Jn 1:5-7; 2:1–2)**