

06. Why Christ Has to Die

Sin separates man from God. This is the first problem that needs to be dealt with, before man can come back into fellowship with God.

God is a holy God. He is a loving Father and He is a God full of goodness and love. But however loving He may be, He cannot overlook our rebellion and our sin, because He is holy as well. Now, it is this balance between the holiness and the love of God that many people do not seem to have understood. Many people's idea is this: that if they just go to God and say, 'Well, God I am sorry for what I have done,' He will forgive them. But on what basis can He forgive them? If you were to commit a crime against the laws of the land and you were taken to court by the police, and if the one sitting as a judge was your own earthly father, who loves you intensely, could he say, 'Well I love you my son, I declare you to be free?' He may love you intensely, but as long as he is sitting there as a judge it would be unjust for him to let you go.

Now if a human being can be so just and fair and righteous, can you imagine how much more just and righteous God is? But what can that father do for you? He can punish you with the full penalty of the law. Let us say it is a 100,000 rupees fine that he imposes upon you as a judge. And then, he can step down from his judge's chair, take off his robes and come to you as your father, and write out a check from his own hard-earned money for those 100,000 rupees and give it to you to pay the fine. Then there would be no injustice, because he has punished you with the full penalty of the law, and then paid that punishment himself.

This is the only way in which God can forgive our

06. 為什麼基督一定得死

罪使人與神隔絕。這個問題需要首先得到解決,人才可能重新回到與神相交的狀態。

神是聖潔的神。祂是位慈愛的父親,充滿了良善與愛。但是無論有多麼的慈愛,祂都不能無視我們的叛逆和我們的罪,因為祂是聖潔的神。很多人似乎都不明白,神聖潔與慈愛之間的平衡。很多人的概念都是:如果他們對神說「那麼好吧,神,很抱歉我所做的。」爾後神就會原諒他了。然而,基於什麼原因,神可以原諒他們?如果你犯了世間的罪,被員警帶上了法庭,假設法官是你爸爸,他非常非常愛你,他能說「兒子,我愛你,所以我宣判你無罪」?他可能深愛著你,可是只要他還坐在法官座位上,就不能無視公正而放你走。

如果連人都能如此公正、公平和正直,你能想像出神多麼更加的公平和正直嗎?然而作為父親,他可能為你做什麼?他可以按照法律來裁斷你該受的全部懲罰。好比說,作為法官,他裁決你付十萬盧比的罰款。然而這時,他從法官的座位走下來,褪去他的袍並以父親的身份來到你身邊,寫給你一張十萬盧比的支票,都是他自己辛苦賺來的。這樣,就沒有任何的不公正。因為他給了你法律界定的全部懲罰,爾後由他自己承擔了這個罰款。

這就是能讓神原諒我們罪的唯一途徑。不是單靠著我

sin. It is not by our feeling sorry for our sins alone; it is by God having provided a way in His justice for the price of our sins being paid.

This is the whole message of the Bible. That is what Jesus Christ did. God came down to earth in the person of Jesus Christ, and paid that price. He punished us with a full penalty of the law; the punishment for sin is death. You and I need to get that death whether our sins are many or few. A man who commits one murder is hanged and a man who commits a thousand murders is also hanged. The number of sins doesn't make a difference. If we are guilty, we deserve death whether our sins are one or many. But God, in His love, made this way by which our sins can be forgiven: Jesus Christ came to earth and took our punishment when He died upon the cross. God had to become a man, just like us. He had to live through the temptations and struggles that we face as human beings. He died as a sacrifice in our stead, taking the punishment of our sins upon Himself.

Now, remember this: the punishment for sin is not physical suffering, or sickness, or poverty, or coming back into the world on a lower social scale, or any such thing. The punishment for sin is eternal death. It means being separated from God forever. Also our sin is like a debt that we owe to God. Jesus Christ, when He died, paid that debt for us. Our good works, the Bible says, are like filthy rags in God's sight. We think of certain works as good works and certain works as bad works. But that is because we compare ourselves with other people who are more evil than us. To take an illustration from a classroom, a student who got 25% in mathematics may consider himself a very bright student compared to the other student who got 5%. That may be true, but he has failed, just like the

們自己後悔于自己的罪;更是神給人提供了公平的方式,來償還我們犯罪所需付出的代價。

這是整個《聖經》所傳達的資訊。這是耶穌基督所作的。神以耶穌基督的人身,降到這個世上,付清了全部的懲罰。祂按照完全的律法判了我們的罪;罪惡的代價是死亡。不管你覺得自己是犯了很多的罪還是比較少,這罪的代價都是死亡。如同謀殺一個人或者謀殺一千個人,結果都是要被處死。犯罪的數量不會使判決產生區別。如果我們有罪,不管是一件還是很多件,死都是應得的。但是神,因為祂的愛,用這樣的方式使我們的罪可以被饒恕:耶穌基督來到世上,死在十字架上承擔了我們該受的懲罰。神必須要成為像我們一樣有肉身的人。祂需要經歷誘惑和掙扎,就像我們人所面對的一樣。祂卻替我們死了,承擔了我們罪惡該受的懲罰。

現在,請記住一點:對罪的懲罰,不是肉體的痛苦或疾病、困苦,或是任何別的什麼,例如重新來世上降生到低等的社會環境。罪惡的懲罰是在永恆裡的死。這指的是,與神永遠隔絕。我們的罪也類似我們欠神的債。耶穌基督,當祂死去的時候,為我們還清了債。《聖經》說,我們人類的善舉,在神的眼裡就如同骯髒的破布一樣。我們感覺有些行為是非常好的慈善行為,有些是惡行。但那是因為我們把自己和其他的人類來比較,和那些比我們更邪惡的人來比較。比如一個班裡,一個學生數學考了 25 分,就覺得自己比考了只有 5 分的學生聰明。可能他是稍聰明些,但他也同樣是不及格。他們兩個都需要在來年重新學,即使他比另一個多考了 20 分。所以,當我們說,我們很好或是某個人很好,那都是相對的條件下——和 10 分的比起來,20 分是會稍高些。但當你和至善至美全能的神作比較時,祂是 100 分,每個人都差很多很多。這就是為

other student has failed as well. And they both have to sit in the same class next year, even though one got 20 marks more than the other. So when we say we are good or somebody is good, it is a relative term; compared to somebody else he is good, he got 20%, whereas the other person got 10%. But compared to Almighty God's standard, of 100%, everybody has come short. That is why the Bible says, even the so-called good things that you have done are not valuable in God's eyes. They are like filthy rags in God's eyes; they cannot make you acceptable before Him. It is because we have such a low understanding of God's standards that we think the few good works that we do are going to make us acceptable to Him.

God's standard of holiness is infinite and none of us can ever reach it. We are all in a hopeless condition, every one of us. If even our good works, and the best works we can ever do, cannot measure up to God's standard, then what hope is there for us? We are hopelessly lost. That is why God made this way through sending His own Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins. And through Christ's death, every sin of every human being has been totally atoned for - that means, paid for. Your debt has been paid. But like the illustration I used in the beginning, of the father who comes down from the judge's seat and writes out a check and gives it to his son to pay the fine, that son is still not free until he takes the check from his father. It is not enough that the father has written the check. The son has to take it. And that is what God is waiting for man to do.

God has already paid the price for man's sin when Christ died 2,000 years ago on a cross. But that forgiveness can never be yours until you accept it. You have to take it, you have to say, 'thank you Lord, for dying for me.' And you see the foolishness

什麼《聖經》說,即使是你做的所謂好事,在神眼裡都沒有什麼價值。在神看來就像骯髒的破布一樣,是無法被祂所接受的。我們以為自己做的一點點「善事」可以使自己被神所接納,那是因為我們在按自己的理解力去想像神的標準。

神聖潔的標準是無限高的(如同正無窮),所以沒有一個人可能接近那個標準。那麼這樣的我們,每一個人都在毫無指望的境地。如果我們的善舉,我們最大最好的努力,也不配和神的標準做比較,那我們還有什麼希望?我們完全沒指望了。這就是為什麼神必須送來祂自己的兒子,耶穌基督,來為我們的罪而死。通過基督的死,我們每個人的每條罪都全部被還清了(譯者:耶穌基督的無限聖潔,來償還所有人的所有債)。你欠的債也被還了。然而,就像我一開始用的比喻,就算這位父親從法官席走下來,把支票交給兒子用來付罰金,但兒子仍然必須要簽收父親的支票才能生效。光是父親寫了支票是不夠的。兒子需要接受它。這就是神在等待人去做的。

神在兩千年前基督死在十字架上的時候,就已經把人犯罪必須付出的代價還清了。但你必須接受這份饒恕,它才能對你生效。你得接受它,並且說:「感謝主為我而死。」爾後你會發現,不接受這份白得的恩賜,是多麼的傻。你覺得那個在法庭上的兒子,如果他不接受

of a man when he does not receive that which is offered freely. What would you think of that son in the courtroom, when his father writes out this check of 100,000 rupees, and he doesn't take it? That is the foolishness of man everywhere. If that son says, 'No, I will pay the fine myself,' well, he is going to spend years in the jail and still not be able to pay the fine.

That is the condition of man. Man is unable to pay for his sins. The only way we can have our sins forgiven is coming in simplicity, acknowledging our need, and saying, 'Lord, I am unable to meet my need of forgiveness. I want to receive it from you. I am never able to pay for my sins. Thank you, that Jesus died for me and that when He shed his blood on the cross and gave His body as a sacrifice; it took care of the punishment of all my sins.' Then the demands of God's justice have been met.

How do we know whether this sacrifice of Jesus Christ was accepted or not by the holy God? This is very important to know. The proof is that after three days, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead.

See, these two things make the message of The Bible and the Christian Gospel unique. It is different from any other message. We can say that every religion in the world teaches us that we must be good; we must be kind, etc. It is all true. But there is the foundation in the Christian Gospel which is unique, and what is that? Two things, basically: The Christian gospel does not start with, 'Be good, be kind, and don't tell lies, etc.,' that comes much later. It starts with, 'You cannot be good, you cannot be upright, and everything you do is unacceptable to God. First of all, you need the guilt of your past life to be removed. You got to clear your old account before we start on our new account. The old debt

父親給他的十萬盧比的支票,是怎樣的情形?這樣傻人到處都是。 如果這個兒子說:「不,我要自己來付這筆錢。」爾後,他就只會在監獄裡呆好多年而仍然付不起罰款。

人的情況就是這樣。 要知道人自己是無法還清這的罪的。 唯一能讓我們的罪被赦免的方式,是以純樸的心,承認我們需要被赦免:「主,我沒辦法自己實現自己罪的赦免,我需要從你那裡得到。 我永遠也沒法償還我的罪。 感謝你,讓耶穌為了我而死,當祂在十字架上流血的時候,獻上了祂的身體作為祭品;承受了所有因我犯罪而來的懲罰。」爾後就達到了神公義的要求。

我們如何知道耶穌基督用自己的死作為祭品,是被神接受了?知曉這是怎麼回事是非常重要的。 證據就是,三天之後,神使耶穌基督從死裡復活。

你看,這兩件事是《聖經》和基督信仰裡非常獨特的訊息。 與其它任何的訊息都不同。 我們可以說這個世界上各種宗教都在教人怎樣做好人,我們要善良等等的。 這些都是對的。 但是基督信仰的基礎是獨特的,這個基礎是什麼?基本上是這兩個方面:第一,基督信仰的教導不是一開始就說「做好人,要善良,不要說謊等等」,這些都是後面才提到的。 而教導是開始于「你自己沒辦法做好人,沒辦法正直,你做的每件事都無法被神接受。 你需要的第一件事,是把你過去人生的所有過犯,都免去。 在你開始一個新帳戶的時候,必須要把舊帳戶銷了。 欠的舊賬需要清了。」這舊賬要怎麼清呢?基督為了全世界的罪而死。 就這樣所有的舊賬都銷了。 第二,所有的舊賬都銷了的證據是,神使基督從死裡復活。 人類歷史上只有一個人從墳墓裡出來,

has to be cleared.' How is that cleared? Christ died for the sins of the world. That is the way that old record is cleared, the debt is taken out of the way. Secondly, the proof is that Christ rose again from the dead. There is only one person in the history of the human race that came out from the grave and conquered man's greatest enemy: death. There is one thing man has never been able to conquer. Man has conquered space; man has conquered many sicknesses, but he has never been able to conquer death and he will never be able to conquer death. Jesus Christ is the only one who has conquered death. That is the proof to the entire human race that His sacrifice is accepted. Now all we have got to do is to believe, and receive. The Bible says that if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and if you confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, you will be saved. Your sins will be forgiven - it is like receiving that check that the father gives and saying, 'Thank you dad for paying my fine. I can go out of this courtroom absolutely free.'

The Bible says that Jesus Christ is going to come back to this world to judge every human being that ever lived here. Before that time comes, we have to make sure that our life is right with God, that our sins are forgiven. This is the invitation that comes to you today. What do you have to do? Acknowledge that you are a sinner. Believe that Christ died for your sins and rose again. Receive Him into your life. Ask Him to forgive you. Confess Him as your Lord. That means, say it with your mouth: 'Jesus Christ is now my Lord.' It is that simple. May God help you to take that decision today.

並戰勝了人類最大的敵人——死亡。這曾是人類從來無法戰勝的。人類征服宇宙空間,征服許多疾病,但從來無法征服死亡,並且永遠無法征服死亡。耶穌基督是唯一的一個征服了死亡。這是給整個人類的證明,耶穌把自己獻祭,已經被神所接受了。現在我們唯一需要做的,就是相信和接受。《聖經》說如果心中相信,神使耶穌從死裡復活,如果你口中承認耶穌基督是主,那麼你就得救了。你的罪就會得到赦免——就如同從父親那裡簽收一張支票,並說:「爸爸,感謝您替我付清了罰款。我能夠自由地離開法庭了。」

《聖經》說耶穌基督會再次回到這個世界,來審判每一個曾在這裡生活過的人。在那個日子來臨以前,我們需要確定,自己的生命與神的關係被修復了,確定我們的罪被赦免了。這是今天對你的邀請。你需要做什麼?只要承認自己是有罪之人。相信基督為了你的罪而死並復活。接受祂進入你的生命。求告祂的赦免。接受祂為你的主。也就是說,用你的口說出來:「耶穌基督,現在開始你是我的主。」就這麼簡單。願神說明你在今天做出這個決定。

