

DOCTRINE

JESUS

LESSON #4

B – THE WORK OF CHRIST

I. HIS DEATH

(1) His Death – When discussing the work of Christ, Paul went directly to His death. Reason – See (II Cor. 5:16-17). Knowing Christ after the flesh is not the real thrust of Christianity. For the Church, we are pressed to look at the risen Christ and the results. His life upon this earth was necessary, but without His death and resurrection, it would only be that of a good man.

(2) His Death, a Vital Principle – The four legs of the gospel (I Cor. 15:3-5). The theme of the New Testament (Heb. 2:14). Jesus' purpose in coming to this world was to die. Without His death, the Christian religion would be like so many other religions that are not based on the shedding of blood (Heb. 9:22). It is in His death that He did "the work" that is so vital to us all.

(3) In His Death, He Became a Ransom – The original fact of ransom is set forth in (Lev. 25:47-49). The meaning of ransom is to deliver a thing or person by paying a price, to redeem one from captivity by paying a price. We were "sold under sin" (Rom. 3:9-12). See: (Matt. 20:28) (I Tim 2:6) (I Peter 1:18-19) (Gal. 3:13).

(4) He Became a Propitiation – (Rom. 3:25) The meaning is a mercy-seat or covering. The lid of the ark of the covenant covered the law or the children of Israel would have died for their sins (Ex. 25:22). Jesus is our propitiation, covering our sins (I John 2:2) (Heb. 2:17).

(5) He Became a Reconciliation – (Rom. 5:10) Meaning a thorough change from, thus drawing together two parties who were at enmity with each other. Thus, we are brought to God by the work of Christ at the cross. The change is accomplished in us by repentance and becoming righteous in Christ. God is not reconciled (changed), but we are. See: (II Cor. 5:18-19) (Col. 1:20).

(6) He Became Our Substitute – Meaning is to replace one thing with something else, or to use in place of. The skins with which Adam and Eve were clothed indicates substitution. Also, (Gen. 22:13-14) shows this truth. (II Cor. 5:21) Jesus made sin for us. Our death was required because of sin but Jesus substituted Himself in our place. (I Peter 2:24) (I Peter 3:18) (Isa. 53:6).

II. HIS RESURRECTION

(1) Christianity is the only religion that bases its claim to truth and reality on the resurrection of its Founder from the dead. All religions may be tested by this claim and will be found untrue.

(2) Fundamental to Christianity – See (I Cor. 15:12-28). Vs. 12-13, Our own resurrection is based upon His resurrection from the dead. Vs. 14, Our preaching is based upon His resurrection. If He was not raised, then we are false witnesses, Vs. 15-Vs. 17, Even our faith is based upon it. Vs. 19, This life and its joy are also based upon

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it. Vs. 25-28 show that Jesus is victor over all powers and every enemy by His resurrection from the dead.

(3) The Christian Church Based on Resurrection – (Matt. 28:18-20) It was after His resurrection that He encouraged His disciples to begin their preaching, because all power in heaven and earth was given to Him. See also (Mark 16:14-20).

(4) Results and Assurances – (Rom 1:4) Jesus declared to be the Son of God with power, by the resurrection from the dead. (Rom. 4:25) The believers' acceptance – He was delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification. Makes intercession for us – (Rom. 8:34). Believers assured of power for life and service (Eph. 1:18-22). Believers' assurance of High Priest – (Heb. 4:14).

1. Explain the meaning of "not knowing Christ after the flesh any longer."
2. Why is Jesus' death so vital to the Christian?
3. Name the four legs of the gospel.
4. What important theme runs through the whole New Testament?
5. What makes the Christian religion unique above other religions?
6. How was Jesus a ransom for us? Explain.
7. What is the meaning of propitiation?
8. Explain reconciliation.
9. What is Scriptural substitution?
10. Is there any other religion that can base its claim to authenticity on the resurrection of its founder?
11. Name five important things based on Jesus' resurrection found in I Cor. 15.
12. What are some of the results and assurances we have because of the resurrection?