



# THE CHALLENGER

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PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

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## Why Did Christ Die?

BY THE EDITOR

**T**HE last weeks of Christ's life were grievous and filled with sorrow and suffering before His death at Calvary. It is a very sad story. He was betrayed by his disciple, Judas. His anguish and bloody sweat in the Garden of Gethsemane were described. Peter, another disciple, denied Him three times. Can you imagine the injustice and indignities of false accusations? At the cross His disciples deserted Him for fear of the Jews. Look at His suffering and sacrifice on the cross itself. None of us can fathom the depth of anguish the God-man suffered. The pain would be as great as if you personally were beaten and nailed to a cross, then lifted in the air to hang on nails.

Should Christ tarry in His coming for us, every living person has an appointment with death. "It is appointed unto man once to die" (Hebrews 9:27). Christ is the only One Who came into the world for the purpose of dying. He predicted the fact and manner of His death. (Matthew 16:21; 17:22,23; 20:18,19; Luke 9:22, 18:31-33) He taught us that His death was of universal significance. (John 3:16; 12:32,33). Read how His death was vicarious and substitutionary. (Matthew 26:28, Mark 10:45; Luke 22:19; I Corinthians 11:23,24; II Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:20) He died of His own volition. His life was not taken from Him. (Matthew 27:50, John 10:18) He prayed that His death would glorify His Father. (John 12:27,28;13:31;17:1)

One-third of Matthew and Mark and one-fourth of Luke are devoted to His death. One-half of John did the same. The heart of Christianity is the Bible and the heart of the Bible is the cross. It is the heart of God. "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself" (II Corinthians 5:19). Paul's contribution of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the New Testament is thrilling to behold. Take out his part and the story of the cross would be incomplete, and only a partial revelation. It was the main theme to his divinely-inspired message to the churches. Hear him say, "I am determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (I Corinthians 2:2).

### To the Churches

"Who gave Himself for our sins" (Galatians 1:4). "The Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (2:20). "In due time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). "We believe that Jesus died and rose again" (I Thessalonians 4:14). "You who sometimes were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13). "That I might know Him and the fellowship of His suffering" (Philippians 3:10). "In Whom we have redemption through His blood" (Colossians 1:14). "Who gave Himself as a ransom for all" (I Timothy 2:6).

The cross was a distinct revelation from God to the Apostle Paul. (Galatians 1:11,12) "By revelation He made known unto me the mystery" (Ephesians 3:3-5). Today, the Holy Spirit reveals God's provision through the Scriptures. Here is the real meaning of the cross. It reaches our mind and heart. We are transformed by such a vision. Christ died for our sins. (Romans 5:6-8) He took upon Himself our deserved and promised punishment for sin. His perfect sacrifice (death) on the cross met all demands of a holy and righteous God. Don't ever forget that our sin is what sends us to hell. Many in our day endeavor to make the rejection of Christ the cause of eternal abode in hell. Not so! Millions of the heathen around the world never heard of a Savior. They perished and went to hell. You may say that is not right. Nothing about sin is right! God provided a way for them to be saved as with all men. God told you and me and all Christians to go around the world, preaching the gospel to EVERY creature. (Mark 16:15) It is our sinful works that sends us to hell. "I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life and the dead were judged out of that things which were written in the books ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS" (Revelation 20:12). This Truth is repeated in the next verse. Our basic problem is not what we do with Christ; it is how to get rid of our sin. The cross is God's answer to our damnable possession of sin.

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## Why Did Christ Die? (continued from page 1)

“CHRIST DIED” is a fact mentioned 175 times in the New Testament. It is an undisputed fact of history. The purpose was “for our sins.” If you want to know your condition before a holy God, look at Calvary and see Christ dying in your deserved place. (I Timothy 1:15) Christ left the second highest position in heaven, at His Father’s right hand, to be associated with sinners, dying for them. He willingly “made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death” (Isaiah 53:9) Christ’s death and resurrection are necessary for man’s salvation. His resurrection indicates the Father’s satisfaction with the death of His son. Had Christ remained in the tomb, there would be no justification or regeneration.

### The Proclamation

It is to be heralded around the world. It was the first message of the Apostle Paul. He says, “First of all” he proclaimed the gospel, with its center being the cross. (I Corinthians 15:1-4) What is our personal responsibility in world evangelism? If we

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## Personal Word (continued from page 3)

For you timid folk who think we should love our way through life without any warnings or rebukes, remember one thing — THIS IS A BIBLE ISSUE, and every moral, decent, and obedient person must speak out against such unscriptural action. Why should we be surprised at the Court’s action? Their pattern was revealed in abortion. The voters had no authority whatsoever. We did have a vote in Florida and over 70 percent opposed abortion, but that action meant nothing. The decision was settled by the Supreme Court of the land. The opposition is fully aware that the populace oppose both issues. So we sit back and allow the Court system to declare our standards of morality. Where is our sad, sick Congress in all these actions? They would not even approve an amendment to our constitution stating only a man and a woman in marriage. The ACLU and Planned Parenthood back up their action with money, which almost always controls the vote of crooked politicians who will not support the will of the people. Who elects these Congressmen? Who keeps them in office?

I have said it before. The Supreme Court of the land, plus our Congress, is by far more important than the election of the president of our sick nation. What kind of a president will nominate the right kind of Court members? Who approves them? Who holds our nation’s purse strings? The U.S. Congress. When will we turn around this situation of contrary action to our constitution? I do not think we will ever do it. But you know where Dwight Porter’s vote is going to be.

### You Can Now Hear

Twenty-eight different messages can now be heard on our web-site. What a privilege to share these Bible-teaching Truths. Thanks to you who make it all possible by your purse and prayers. By the way, these are not salve-coated messages for your few moments of devotional times. They are loaded with scripture presented in a forthright manner. Personal chats is what I hope they are for your understanding the provisions of God’s grace, not only for the sinner but also the saint in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians chapter one) Will you pray for this ministry? Anyone, anywhere in this entire world can listen to these messages as many times as their heart desires. Included in these productions is our special music and with no offering plate passed. Go to our web-site: **THEHOUROFGRAACEANDPOWER.ORG.**

personally cannot go to the ends of the earth, we must assist those who can and do. In no way does our inability remove this responsibility given to every believer. The message of the cross is to be a persistent one. Paul impresses the memory, with delight and determination to tell the story over and over. It is a proven message, one that is real within the person declaring it. He said that he delivered what he received. It was experientially real within himself. The greatest privilege among Christians is to proclaim God’s provision for sinners far and wide. (I Corinthians 1:18) (I am doing it, and you can help me to do so.)

### The Application

The work of the cross is only effectual as it is received and believed. “But as many as RECEIVED Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that BELIEVE on his name” (John 1:12). We must deal with our sin before trusting the Savior to take it away. God commands that we repent. We turn from our sin in coming to the Savior in faith. (Luke 13:3,5) We are then worked upon by God. (Ephesians 2:10) “Then said Jesus to His disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Matthew 16:24).

Calvary was the blackest spot in the history of mankind and yet its brightest. We see the contrast of human hate and divine love. You must meet that Christ of the cross and an empty tomb. You must believe Him to be a satisfactory sacrifice to God. Will you receive and believe Him to be your personal Savior? To spurn God’s loving provision at Calvary means hell. No wonder there is such a place for those who refuse His love and authority!

**“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified (dead) to me, and I to the world”** (Galatians 6:14). *How often do you personally thank Jesus Christ for dying on Calvary’s cross for you?*



