

Gateway Christian Fellowship

Meeting every Lord's Day (Sunday) in the Tower Hotel at 11.30a.m.

Visit us at gatewaycfderry.org

Number 1

Jesus - why did He die on the cross?



Normally the death that people die receives far less attention than the life they live. In His death Jesus defied all the norms. He is known for His death even more than for His life. He died publicly, shamefully, young, condemned between two criminals. The instrument of His death has

Here Jesus was really sensing His Father's absence. He was bearing the full force of His Father's just anger against the sin of others. He was completely without sin Himself, and did not deserve death or separation from God. He was tasting eternal death instead of those sinners God had chosen for eternal life. He was taking on Himself the sin and guilt of all who would trust in Him. He was giving them instead His innocence and purity. This was the way it was meant to be. For God wrote that cry 1,000 years earlier, in Psalm 22. Jesus's rising from the dead shows that God was satisfied with His offering of Himself as the substitute for others.



Thirdly, **the curtain**. "And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom" (Mark chapter 15 verse 38). That meant no man tore it. God did. Before, only the high priest could go behind that curtain once a year with the blood of a sacrifice, to cover the people's sins for

another year and spare their lives. God is saying that the final sacrifice has been made. No more blood needs to be shed. We have access to God through Jesus.



Lastly, **the ransom**. A short time before Jesus' entry into Jerusalem He described His death like this, "[T]he Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Mark chapter 10 verse 45). A ransom is the payment of a valuable price to buy back someone or something lost or captured. At conception we inherit the sinful nature that came on Adam and Eve after their sin. This leads us all to sin and makes us prisoners to sin. Jesus's pure life and perfect obedience of His Father, which led to His death, pays in full the ransom for the sin and disobedience of those who trust in Him and sets those people free.

On the cross Jesus died a million deaths and more, for everyone who sees that his sins deserve death, who confesses those sins to God and who believes that Jesus died so that he might live.

You may remember the three-legged stool from the first leaflet. You can't sit down on a stool like that if one of its legs is missing. For Christianity to do you any good you must believe three vital things. The first is that Jesus was, and is, the unique Son of God with the power and authority of God. He had power to lay down His own life, and He had power to take it up again. The second thing you must believe is that Jesus willingly gave His perfect life as your substitute, in order to pay for the sins that infest your life and save you from eternal death. The third thing you must believe, God willing, will be revealed in the next leaflet.



***"God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life"
1 John chapter 5 verses 11-12.***

This leaflet was passed on to you by a member of the Gateway Christian Fellowship. We meet to worship God every Lord's Day (Sunday) at 11.30a.m. in the Tower Hotel and we would be delighted to see you there.

If you would like to have a Bible or to know more about it or about Jesus, the main person in the Bible, please call Pastor Stephen Neilly on 074 2892 5764.

May God open your eyes to His Son and help you trust Him alone!