

# THE JUST FOR THE UNJUST

## 1 PETER 3:18

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<sup>18</sup> *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

Introduction:

The crucifixion of Jesus stands as the center of history and Christianity around which life, as we know it, revolves.

It was on that hillside where darkness collided with light, where death battled life, where the forces of hell confronted the powers of heaven.

On that crucifixion day when Satan, his demons, and all of his followers thought they had won the victory, when, in fact the victory was yet to be won.

On the hill called Calvary that crucifixion day questions abounded:

The Religious Leaders asked, "Who do he think he is?"

One thief asked, "If you are the Son of God?"

The other thief asked, "Will you remember me?"

John must have asked, "how did this happen?"

Mary must have looked up at her Son and asked, "why?"

Mary's question is the question which has been ringing down through both time and eternity.

Why?

Why did Jesus have to suffer?

Why did He have to endure the Cross?

How could a loving God allow His Son to experience this type of death?

Notice:

## **1. THE CROSS WAS A PLACE OF SACRIFICE**

From the beginning of creation & fall of man in the Garden of Eden, God has required a sacrifice for sin.

In the Old Testament, lambs were killed & their blood offered for release.

In Egypt, lambs were killed & the blood was place over the door post for protection.

God said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you."  
The lamb was to be pure & spotless.

The New Testament gives this eternal principle;

**Hebrews 9:22**

<sup>22</sup> *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

Today because of the cross, no animals are killed. Jesus became the sacrifice for sin, pure & spotless.

**1 Peter 1:19**

<sup>19</sup> *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

**2 Peter 3:14**

<sup>14</sup> *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

Note only was the cross a place of sacrifice but also:

## **2. THE CROSS WAS A PLACE OF SUBSTITUTION**

The concept of substitution is an interesting concept. Simply put it is the act of putting one thing or person in the place of another.

Illustration:

You go to your doctor and he writes you a script for medicine. So you take that script to the drug store and what question do they ask you? “Is generic okay?” You quickly understand that this substitution has the potential to cost you “personally” less money. The cost to you is less.

Every person in this room knows that he or she is a sinner, because everyone has done something wrong.

The Bible says, “for all have sinned” and “there is no one who is righteous”, we know ourselves.

The Bible says, that the wages, payment, or compensation for our sin is death.

So, we understand that blood has to be shed and the price or punishment of death must be satisfied.

How can this be? How can this happen?

The entire Bible tells us that:

**Isaiah 53:5**

*<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

Note the chastisement he endured.

**Psalm 22:11-21**

*<sup>11</sup> Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help. <sup>12</sup> Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. <sup>13</sup> They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. <sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. <sup>15</sup> My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. <sup>16</sup> For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. <sup>17</sup> I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. <sup>18</sup> They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. <sup>19</sup> But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. <sup>20</sup> Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. <sup>21</sup> Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.*

The nails that were driven in the Saviour's hands and feet should have been mine but He was my substitute.

The crown of thorns that was beat upon the Saviour's brow should have been mine but He was my substitute.

The Old Rugged Cross should have been mine, but the Saviour took my place.

He was my substitute, my sacrifice.

Notice not only was the cross a place of sacrifice and substitution but also:

### **3. THE CROSS WAS A PLACE OF SALVATION**

In Christ the Lord demonstrated His love for us.

#### ***John 3:16***

*<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Notice:

A. God Expressed His Love With Passion – “so loved”

B. God Expounded His Love With Purpose – “should not perish”

C. He Extended His Love With Promise –  
“everlasting life”

Close:

The cross has much to say to us today. We must remember that the Cross was a Place of Sacrifice, a Place of Substitution, and the Place of Salvation.