

## Five Truths All Christians Believe

1. Jesus was born of a virgin —Mary—
  - **Luke 1:34** “I know not a man” [The reference to a ‘virgin’ in
  - **Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. and therefore,
2. Jesus is God —God’s Son — [Jesus is actually God come in the flesh or as a human.
  - **John 3:16** ;
  - **Luke 1:23** “the Son of the Highest:” The Christian faith maintains that Mary carried Jesus to term before she was married to Joseph which made Jesus, God’s Son] and therefore,
3. Jesus, Our Heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit in absolute unity have important ministries to us—
  - **Ephesians 4:4-6** Paul spoke of “one Spirit..one Lord.. one God and Father of all.”
  - **I Corinthians 12:4-6**
    - There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. The Father provides the power and authority
    - There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. We follow Jesus in doing what the Father wants done
    - There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. The Spirit is working through us
  - **2 Corinthians 13:14** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
4. When Jesus died on Calvary, The God-man died — [It is important to note that He was also sinless. We could not do what He alone had to do, because we were not yet reconciled with God.
  - **Romans 5:10** when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son. (see also Colossians 1:21)
  - **Ezekiel 22:30** I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.
  - **Job 16:21** O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleads for his neighbor!
  - **Hebrews 2:17** For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.
  - **Hebrews 1:3** The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.
5. The Bible IS God’s Word. -The message of the Bible is all about the Cross and our Lord’s resurrection.
  - 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed

## Four Doctrines All Christians Believe

1. Jesus is the only Savior of sinners,
  - **Acts 4:12** "There is salvation in none other nor is there another named being, anywhere introduced to humanity, in whom is the necessary means to save us."
2. We cannot find a way back to God without Him,
  - **Isaiah 53:6** "We are stray sheep, having lost our way"
  - **John 6:44** "No one is able to come to me," Jesus affirmed, "unless the Father goes and gets them"
3. The death of Jesus Christ alone made reconciliation with God possible.
  - **Romans 5:12** "If while we were hostile toward God, He sought our friendship by such a great sacrifice, His Son, indeed, this friendship is forever"
4. His sacrifice, Jesus' death, is the ultimate cause of our *justification*.
  - **Romans 3:25-26** "Jesus Christ was God's appointed instrument of His mercy through His blood, His death ... that God might show Himself just and also justify those who trust in Jesus Christ. "

## Three Reasons for Jesus' Crucifixion

1 Corinthians 1:30 [1] *righteousness, and* [2] *sanctification, and* [3] *redemption*

John 16:10-12 [1] Of sin, because they believe not on me

[2] Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

[3] Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

1. Because we were enemies. Jesus had to die if we were to be forgiven and reconciled.  
***Calvary satisfied God's justice.***
  1. **Isaiah 53:10.** "After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be *satisfied*; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities."
  2. **Romans 6:6** For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.
2. Because He loved us. Calvary shows how much God loved us because He was willing to die for us. He inspires us, in turn, to love on a higher level. We were apathetic when it came to His love for us. Calvary offers us a new life in Christ (John 3:16). ***Love was not made for us but we were created for His love.***
  - **1 John 4:16** And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love; and he that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him.
3. Because Satan needed to be defeated. Revelation 12:11 ***We overcome the devil by the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of our testimony.***
  - **Colossians 2:15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

## Two Bible Stories

1. Christ as a **sacrifice** for sin paints the picture of the Temple precinct where the sacrifices were a type of Christ's crucifixion
  - **Hebrews 10:1** The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves.
  - **Hebrews 8:4-5** a copy and shadow of what is in heaven.
2. Christ **ransoming** us depicts the market place as, for example, the story of Hosea buying back his wife, Gomer, from the slave auction block
  - **Hosea 3:2** So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver
  - **Matthew 20:28** the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a **ransom for** many.
  - **1 Timothy 2:6** gave himself as a [*anti*]**ransom** for all people.
  - **Titus 2:13-14** we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

## One New Covenant

- **New Covenant:** Written on the Heart not on Stone tablets! Jesus' death had everything to do with His being a Covenantal God. His Covenant made Calvary an act of Judgement - judicial
  - **Jeremiah 31:33-34 & Ezekiel 36:26** This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ... A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you
  - **Hebrews 9:15-18** Therefore, he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance, because a death has taken place for redemption from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.
  - **Hebrews 10:16** This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.
  - **Leviticus 26:25** Jesus executed vengeance for the Old Covenant.
  - **Matthew 5:17** Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

## “It Is Finished, John 19:30”

When Jesus cried, "It is finished!" What was finished? What did He mean by these words just before He expired on the cross?

- Paid in full: "(Financial) receipts are often introduced by this phrase," according to Moulton & Milligan's Vocabulary of the Greek New Testament. In general the word means: to fulfill obligations, to pay."
  - ā Charles Swindoll explained: "It was a Greek expression most everyone present would have understood. It was an accounting term. Archaeologists have found papyrus tax receipts with "It is finished" written across them, meaning "paid in full." With Jesus' last breath on the cross, He declared the debt of sin cancelled, completely satisfied. Nothing else required. Not good deeds. Not generous donations. Not penance or confession or baptism or...or...or...nothing. The penalty for sin is death, and we were all born hopelessly in debt. He paid our debt in full by giving His life so that we might live forever."
- The simplest meaning of "finished" in the form He spoke it on the Cross is "All is fulfilled, All is accomplished!"
  - ā Jesus finished the Work **FINALLY**. "The fulness of the time was come." (Galatians 4:4)
  - ā Jesus finished the work **COMPLETELY** "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."(Luke 24:26-27)
  - ā Jesus finished the work once **FOR ALL TIME**. "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."(Hebrews 10:10)

## The Marrow of Theology

**Romans 3:25** God's purpose was to give Jesus as our Mercy Seat, the Place and a means of reconciliation, which we believe He was doing when He shed His blood on Calvary demonstrating God's justice because up to this moment He didn't forgive but only overlooked sins that He tolerated.

1. to **demonstrate** and why was Jesus sent to Calvary? "the demonstration of His justice" is a **manifestation** of Divine Justice.
  - When God manifests, He **reveals**. "It is a revelation" Matthew 16:17 "You are blessed, Simon; no person shared this insight with you, My Father in Heaven told you this" [Matthew 27:54]
2. his **righteousness**, His justice: just. As regards the Savior's death.
3. because in his **forbearance** - not forgiven but disregarded, *overlooked*, ignored.
  - Paul asked us to forbear in love Ephesians 4:2 [The secret to Christian unity for now] With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love
4. he had left the sins committed **beforehand** - previous to Calvary
5. God **presented Christ**- Put His own Son on **public display**
  - not by accident or mistake but purposely and being determined before the world was created or Adam was formed.
  - 1 Peter 1:19-20 But [we are redeemed] with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but **was manifest** in these last times for you,
6. But how was Calvary a **manifestation** of God's justice? Four reasons:
  - Jesus' death had to be on public display.
7. **Colossians 2:15** "He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them **publicly**; he triumphed over them in him."
8. **2 Peter 3:9** "From His cross there rose the most perfect honor rendered to the righteousness of God. How could His death for our salvation, for the atonement of the world, not be public!?" "not willing that any should perish, but that **all should come** to repentance."
9. The Jewish law is now replaced by a new life in Christ. This needs to be heralded as a **public proclamation** in the town square.
  - **Matthew 9:37** The harvest indeed is plenteous, but the laborers are few.
  - "For four thousand years, the spectacle presented by mankind to the whole moral universe was, so to speak, a continual scandal. With the exception of some great examples of judgment, divine righteousness seemed to be asleep....." Our verse confesses, "God passed over the sins " But now, Hear ye! Hear ye!! He that hath an ear, let him hear!
  - **Acts 17:30** "Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God **now commands all people everywhere** to repent." **Romans 10:13-15** And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

## Greek: “Allelous” - One Another

Fellowship is intimacy or closeness— a common burden, a common heart, a common prayer as well as working and worshipping together. I like to call this the “allelous” principle after the New Testament Greek word for one another. It is because of Calvary that we experience in this life a taste of the richness of fellowship with one another that will be ours in its fulness in the Kingdom to come: “comforted together” (Romans 1:12); “kindly affectioned one to another” (Romans 12:10); “same mind one toward another” (Romans 12:16); “edifying another” (Romans 14:19); “likeminded” (Romans 15:5); “Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God” (Romans 15:7); “admonishing one another” (Romans 15:14); “having the same care one for another [without partiality or favoritism]” (1 Corinthians 12:25); “by love serving one another” (Galatians 5:13); “Bearing ... one another's burdens, and so fulfilling the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2)” ...and more.

“The gospel was plowing new ground.” The professor exclaimed, “Understanding ... kinship ... makes us better able to understand the responsibility of Christians to ...live in harmony with one another.” Being a Christian is not just “me and Jesus. I am ... part of God’s household. ... I become part of His *we*.” It is not surprising to hear, then, that sin “...alienates from God’s community.” And that God “... doesn’t want to save me only as an individual, God saves me into ... a *community*.” Unwillingness to share our Christian experience, disinterest in assembling with other believers, disunity on any level, is not a mark of a believer who is fully appreciating and appropriating Christ’s death and resurrection (Hebrews 10:25).