

THE DEATH OF CHRIST IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The Death of Christ in the Gospels

1. Christ's suffering was necessary.

Matthew 16.21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Matthew 17.12 But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands."

Matthew 20.18-19 "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."

Mark 8.31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mark 9.12 And he said to them, "Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt?"

Mark 10.33 saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles.

Luke 9.22 saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

Luke 17.25 But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

2. Christ's blood was the new covenant.

Matthew 26.28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Mark 14.24 And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

Luke 22.20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

3. Christ was wrongly condemned to death.

Matthew 26.59 Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death,

Matthew 26.66 What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death."

Matthew 27.1 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.

Matthew 27.22-26 Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Mark 14.1 It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him,

Mark 14.55 Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none.

Mark 14.64 You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death.

Mark 15.13-15 And they cried out again, "Crucify him." And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Luke 23.21 but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!"

Luke 23.23 But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed.

Luke 23.15 Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him.

Luke 23.22 A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him."

4. Christ was brutally crucified.

Matthew 27.31 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

Matthew 27.32 As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross.

Matthew 27.35 And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots.

Matthew 27.38 Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

Mark 15.20 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

Mark 15.21 And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

Mark 15.24 And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

Mark 15.25 And it was the third hour when they crucified him.

Mark 15.27 And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left.

Luke 23.26 And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus.

Luke 23.33 And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

5. Christ rose from the dead.

Matthew 27.64 Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first."

Matthew 28.5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

Matthew 28.7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

Mark 16.6 And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.

Luke 24.26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

Luke 24.46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,

The Death of Christ in Acts

1. Christ's murder was God's plan.

Acts 2.23-24 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Acts 3.18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.

Acts 4.10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by him this man is standing before you well.

Acts 17.3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."

2. Christ died under the curse.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 "And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.

Acts 5.30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.

Acts 10.39 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,

3. Christ's death and resurrection are prominent in apostolic witness.

Acts 26.23 that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles."

Acts 10.39-41 And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

4. Christ's resurrection proves his messiahship.

Acts 2.36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Acts 17.31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

5. Christ's blood purchases his people.

Acts 20.28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

The Death of Christ in Paul's Epistles

1. Romans

a. Christ's death shows God's righteousness.

Romans 3.25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

b. Christ died for us while we were dead in sin.

Romans 5.6-10 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die-- but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

c. Christ died for us, therefore we are dead to sin.

Romans 6.2-10 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

d. Christ's resurrection frees us from the law.

Romans 7.4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

e. Christ's death and resurrection guarantees our salvation.

Romans 8.11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Romans 8.34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died--more than that, who was raised--who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Romans 10.9 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

f. Christ's death makes other believers important.

Romans 14.15 For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.

[1 Corinthians 8.11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.]

2. Corinthians

a. The cross is central to gospel preaching.

1 Corinthians 1.17-18 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1.23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

1 Corinthians 2.2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1 Corinthians 15.3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

b. Christ's death is our ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 4.10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

2 Corinthians 5.14-15 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

c. Christ's death provides our life and strength.

2 Corinthians 1.9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

2 Corinthians 4.10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

2 Corinthians 13.4 For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

d. Christ's blood is the new covenant.

1 Corinthians 10.16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 11.25-27 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord

3. General (Gal, Thess)

a. Preaching portrays the offense of the cross.

Galatians 3.1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified.

Galatians 3.13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us--for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"--

Galatians 5.11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.

b. The cross enables us to live rightly.

Galatians 2.20-21 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Galatians 5.24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 6.14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

c. Christ's death is our hope for the future.

1 Thessalonians 4.14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 5.10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

4. Prison (Eph, Col, Phil, Phm)

a. Christ's blood redeems us, brings us near, and removes our sin.

Redeems us:

Ephesians 1.7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

Brings us near:

Ephesians 2.13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Reconciles us to God:

Ephesians 2.16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

Colossians 1.22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

Cancels our sin:

Colossians 2.14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

b. Christ's death was the climax of his earthly humility and makes him first.

Philippians 2.8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 3.10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

Colossians 1.18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent

5. Pastoral (Timothy, Titus)

a. Christ is the ransom for the world.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

b. Gospel cleansed Paul from chief sin.

1 Timothy 1:15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

c. Christ died and rose: that is gospel preaching.

2 Timothy 2.8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel,

The Death of Christ in Hebrews

1. Christ's death was evidence of real humanity.

Hebrews 2.9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 2.14-15 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

Hebrews 2.18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 5.7-8 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

2. Christ's blood secured real forgiveness.

Hebrews 9.26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 10.19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,

Hebrews 11.28 By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

Hebrews 12.2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

3. Christ's death inaugurated the new covenant.

Hebrews 9.12-16 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established.

Hebrews 10.29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 13.20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

The Death of Christ in Peter's Epistles

1. Christ's suffering brings us to God.

1 Peter 1.2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

1 Peter 3.18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

2. Christ's suffering serves as our example of endurance.

1 Peter 2.21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

3. Christ's suffering arms us to resist temptation.

1 Peter 1.17-19 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

1 Peter 2.23-24 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed

1 Peter 4.1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

The Death of Christ in John's Writings

1. Gospel

a. Eating & drinking Christ's body & blood is new life.

John 6.53-56 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.

b. Christ died for the nation.

John 11.50-51 Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,

John 18.14 It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

c. Description of suffering & crucifixion.

John 19.15-20 They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.

John 19.23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom,

John 19.25 but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

John 19.31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.

John 19.34 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.

2. Epistles

a. Christ's blood cleanses from sin.

1 John 1.7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

b. Christ truly came in flesh.

2 John 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.

3. Revelation

a. The Lamb's blood frees us from sin.

Revelation 1.5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

b. The Lamb's blood ransoms us.

Revelation 5.9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,

c. The Lamb's blood cleanses us.

Revelation 7.14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

d. The Lamb's blood conquers.

Revelation 12.11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

e. Christ died and is alive.

Revelation 1.18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Revelation 2.8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

Conclusion

1. The death of Christ is central to our ministry.

The emphasis of the gospel-writers is the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus. The core of the apostles' preaching is Christ's cursed death was God's plan for our salvation. The heart of Paul's gospel ministry is the "word of the cross" (I Cor. 1.18) and his preaching "publicly portrayed [Christ] as crucified" (Gal. 3.1).

The death of Christ is not only the *content* of ministry; it is also the *foundation* for it. Paul based his ministry on his own experience with Jesus' death (I Tim. 1.15).

2. The death of Christ profits us immeasurably.

What does the death of Christ do for believers? It purchases us, reconciles us, unites us with him, frees us from the law, removes condemnation, gives us life, gives us ministry, gives us strength, takes our curse, guarantees our future, redeems us, brings us near to God, makes us holy and blameless, cancels our sin, saves us, comforts us, protects us, brings us into the New Covenant, sanctifies us, gives us an example, enables us to live to righteousness, heals us, cleanses us, frees us, ransoms us and conquers our enemies!

3. The death of Christ is not the end of the story.

Each of the Gospels moves quickly from the crucifixion of Christ to his resurrection. The preaching of Acts offers the resurrection of Christ as proof that he really is the Messiah. The epistles rarely separate the death from the resurrection; the resurrection of Christ is the guarantee and proof of all the benefits we are promised. The resurrection clearly demonstrates that God's power belongs to Jesus and that his death is everything that the Scriptures claim it to be. Revelation promises that the victorious Lamb is alive forevermore!