

In ancient times, leprosy was a disease so dreaded that it struck terror and loathing into the hearts of the people. Leprosy had no cure, and the poor victim who contracted this disease was banished from the people, doomed to a lonely and painful death.

The Bible makes a parallel between sin and leprosy. We cannot rid ourselves of sin no matter how we try. Inevitably it leads to misery and death. God has provided the only sure cure for the leprosy of sin, through the death and ministry of Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus cured leprosy when He was on earth, so today He will cure the leprosy of our sin-diseased lives.

# A. THE PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S DEATH

1. For what purpose did Christ die on Calvary? Titus 2:14; Hebrews 2:14-15

- 2. For whom did Jesus die? Hebrews 2:9; 2 Corinthians 5:19
- 3. What moved God to send Jesus to die for us? Ephesians 2:4-7; 1 John 4:10; John 3:16



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Initial release Copyright © \* Final Call Outreach, P.O. Box 1, Rapidan VA 22733 \* **NOTE**: It should be noted that the suffering of Christ did not end or begin at the cross. Revelation 13:8 tells us that Jesus was slain from the foundation of the world. As soon as there was sin, there was suffering for Christ. And long after Jesus returned to heaven, John describes Him as the Lamb slain. Revelation 5:6. What an infinite sacrifice!

## **B. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRIST'S DEATH**

- 4. What did Jesus say would happen if He was lifted up to die on the cross?
- 5. What is the result of accepting Christ's death as atonement for one's sin? Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:15

**NOTE**: Not only does Christ's death deliver us from sin, but it also legally meets the claims of God's law. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:20. But when we accept Jesus' death as payment for our own sins, we do not have to experience that death, and Jesus' righteousness is credited to us in place of our past life of sin. When Satan, "the accuser of the brethren" (Revelation 12:10), stands up to accuse us before God, Jesus steps in, and God accepts Jesus' perfect life instead of our past sinful life.

6. What will be the result of one's being drawn to Christ? John 6:44; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

**NOTE**: Not only does Christ's righteousness count for our past life of sin, but Christ also desires to live in us (Colossians 1:27), to give us

#### ~ NOTES~

the power to live the way He did when He was here on earth.

#### C. THE POWER OF CHRIST"S DEATH

7. God promises that after we accept Christ's death for us, He will change our lives; but how does the change occur?
2 Corinthians 3:18

**NOTE**: Often when the Bible speaks of the glory of God, it refers to the character of God. Here, Paul says that as the new Christian grows, Christ's character is mirrored in him. Exodus 33:18-19; 34:6-7

- 8. In which part of our bodies does this change first take place? 1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5
- 9. Why must the change in our lives begin with our minds? Romans 8:6-7

**NOTE**: Our minds do not naturally want to follow what God desires for us. Therefore we must first allow Christ to change our minds. Otherwise we would be terribly miserable. We would know what is right, but would never be able to do it. Romans 7:15-16, 19; John 12:32

10. When we accept Christ's death and life, and allow Him to put His mind in us, what will happen to our lives? 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:6

## **D. THE EFFECT OF CHRIST'S DEATH FOR US**

- 11. What did Jesus say would happen on the third day after His death? Matthew 16:21
- 12. After Christ rose from death and ascended into heaven, what ministry did he begin to provide for us? Romans 8:34;1 John 2:1

**NOTE**: We have sinned and deserve to die. But Jesus pleads for us before the Father. Through His blood, we are cleansed from our sins. He stands before the Father and offers His death in place of ours.

#### 13. What makes it possible for us to love God? John 4:19

**NOTE**: Christ endured much suffering and heartache for us. When we appreciate the great love that He has for us which led Him to suffer for us, our only response can be love.

14. In which way do we show our love for Jesus? John 14:15; 1 John 2:5-6

15. How does love for God affect our love for one another? 1 John 4:7-11; Matthew 25:40

**NOTE**: If we love Christ, we will desire to please Him. We will obey Him not simply because we want to be saved, but because we are responding to His infinite love, and having His mind in us, our

impulse will be to obey.

#### **SUMMARY**

Without the cross, we could have no union with the Father. On it depends our every hope. From it shines the light of the Saviour's love, and when from the foot of the cross we look upon the One who paid the ultimate price for our sins, we may rejoice with fullness of joy, for our sins are pardoned. Kneeling in faith at the cross, we may reach the highest place to which we can attain.

## PERSONAL COMMITMENT

Because of Jesus' willingness to humble Himself upon the cross for my sins, I am willing by His strength to resist those sins that placed Him upon the cross.

Signed: