

DID CHRIST DIE IN VAIN?

Gal. 2:21

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Rom. 10: 4; Lev. 18: 5; Deut 27:26; Gal. 3:10; Jer. 11:3; Heb. 10: 1 - 9
2. To die is sad; to die in vain is tragic.
3. Nineteen hundred plus years ago, Christ died outside the walls of Jerusalem -- Heb. 13: 12 - 13
 - (1) In the Bible are the prophecies and accounts of His death -- Isa. 53: 4 - 6, 12
 - (2) Christ's death, with His burial and resurrection are the facts of the Christian religion -- I Cor. 15: 1 - 4
4. Our question is, "Did Christ die in vain?" --the answer is "yes" if certain doctrines are true and certain conditions exist.

I. IF THE LAW IS STILL BINDING, CHRIST DIED IN VAIN

1. Many have insisted through the years that Christians are under law.
 - (1) Judaizers desired to remain under the law -- Gal. 4:21
 - (2) Colossian heretics were binding the law -- Col. 2;16
 - (3) Sabbatarians and denominational people today.
2. The law of Moses was annulled (abolished) by the death of Christ.
 - (1) Blotted out, taken out of the way and nailed to the cross-- Col 2: 14 - 16
 - (2) All of the law was abrogated (done away) by His death -- II Cor. 3:7, 11; Rom. 7: 6, 7; Heb. 10:9
3. Truths regarding Christ and the Law.
 - (1) Christ came to fulfill it -- Matt. 5:17
 - (2) Christ came to redeem them that were under it -- Gal. 4: 4 - 5
 - (3) It was a tutor to bring us unto Christ -- Gal. 3:24
 - (4) If righteousness is through it, Christ died for naught -- Gal. 2:21

II. IF THE CHURCH IS NON-ESSENTIAL, CHRIST DIED IN VAIN.

1. Many deny the necessity of the church and ridicule the emphasis that gospel preachers place upon it.
 - (1) They say, "Christ and not the church"
 1. You cannot preach Christ without preaching the church -- Acts 8: 5, 12, 35, 4
 - (2) They say, "We exalt Christ and not the church"
 1. Exalt the King, but not His kingdom? Impossible -- Col. 1:13; John 18:36
2. The church of Christ owes its very existence to the death of Christ.
 - (1) The church was purchased with His blood -- Acts 20:28; I Pet. 1: 18 - 19
 - (2) The church was sanctified by His death -- Eph. 5: 25 - 27

(3) The church was redeemed when He gave Himself for us -- Tit. 2:14

3. Truths regarding Christ and the church:

(1) Only those in the church have been purchased, sanctified, and redeemed.

(2) Since He is the Savior of the body (Eph. 5:25), and the body is the church (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1: 22 -23), He does not save those out of the church.

(3) Since Jesus died for the church, if the church is unnecessary, Christ died in vain.

III. IF RELIGIOUS DIVISION IS RIGHT, CHRIST DIED IN VAIN

1. The majority claim that denominationalism is good and pleasing to God.

2. Christ died to unite all of the saved in one body.

(1) Christ prayed for one body immediately before His death -- John 17: 22 - 23

(2) Christ died to reconcile both Jew and Gentile in one body -- Eph. 2:16; John 10:16

3. Truths regarding the unity of believers.

(1) Paul pleaded for Christian unity at Corinth -- I Cor. 1: 10 - 13

(2) Paul gave the charter for unity -- Eph. 4: 1 - 6

(3) If three hundred denominations are right, then Christ did not reconcile us in one body, and therefore He died in vain.

IV. IF THERE IS NO FUTURE RESURRECTION, CHRIST DIED IN VAIN.

1. There have always been some who denied the resurrection.

(1) The Sadducees denied it -- Matt. 22:23

(2) Some in the early church denied it -- I Cor. 15:12; II Tim. 2: 17 - 18

(3) Materialists today deny it. They say that a man is wholly mortal.

2. Christ died to guarantee for us a resurrection.

(1) Jesus is the resurrection and life -- John 11: 25

(2) He is the firstborn from the dead -- Col. 1:18

(3) He is the first-fruits (guarantee) of the dead -- I Cor. 15: 20 ,23

3. Truths regarding the final resurrection.

(1) Faith in Christ is the ground of our hope -- I Cor. 15: 14

(2) The resurrection is the source of our comfort -- I Thess. 4:18

(3) The resurrection of the righteous is the goal of our striving -- Phil. 3: 11

V. IF I AM LOST, CHRIST DIED IN VAIN.

1. The Bible teaches some will be eternally lost -- Matt. 25:46; II Thess. 1: 8 - 9

2. Christ died to save us from eternal punishment -- I Pet. 2:24; Rom. 5:8

3. Truths regarding the death of Christ and salvation:

(1) His death only benefits us through obedience -- Heb. 5: 8 - 9