

HOW CHRIST GAVE HIS LIFE...



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John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son (as a gift of redemption), that whoever believes in Him (ongoing trust, continual faith) shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. (Read Isaiah 53)

1. The Father and the Son willingly initiated the plan for the salvation of mankind.

The plan was established *before* creation, not after the fall!

- Ephesians 1:4–5 For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world... In love He predestined us for adoption...
- Abraham's willingness to offer Isaac, his miraculous son of promise in Genesis 22:2, was a shadow of the greater Sacrifice. Isaac was not forced, but laid down his life willingly... the Father gave His Son, and the Son *willingly* laid down His life.
- John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

2. The Father gave His best, not what was convenient.

- God did not send an angel. Hebrews 1:4–5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"?
- Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all...
- Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.
- Mark 12:30 You shall love the LORD your God with all your **heart**, with all your **soul**, with all your **mind**, and with all your **strength**.
Heart (Our passion) | Soul (Our identity) | Mind (Our thinking) | Strength Our effort)

3. God judges sin and then provides *the* sacrifice.

- Isaiah 53:5–6 He was pierced for our transgressions... the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- Genesis 22:14 So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."
- The great exchange! 2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin (offering) for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

How Jesus gave became our sacrifice...

1. **Atonement** | This literally means to cover and to take out of the way. Our sins have been taken out of the way to be remembered no more. This is used in a broader sense for the Day of Atonement, Israel's most sacred day, a national day of cleansing, repentance, and reconciliation before God.
 - In Leviticus 16, one goat was sacrificed and another, the scapegoat, had the sins of the people confessed over it and was sent into the wilderness, carrying their guilt away.
 - David refers to this in **Psalm 103:9-12** *...For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us...*
 - Jesus fulfilled both. As our substitute, "The LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). As our Scapegoat, He appeared "to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Hebrews 9:26).
2. **Substitution** | The impossible chasm which separated man from God was bridged through the vicarious, or substitutionary death of Christ on the cross. Jesus died **FOR** the sins of others.
 - Isaiah 53:4-6 (AMP) *Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was wounded (pierced through) for our transgressions (it implies willful disobedience), He was bruised (crushed) for our iniquities (it refers to the internal, moral corruption within a person); the chastisement for our peace (Shalom) was upon Him, and by His stripes (blows that cut in) we are healed (made whole).*
 - Verse 6 capsulizes it: *We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
 - Acts 8:30-40 | The Ethiopian Eunuch was reading Isaiah 53:7-8, which describes the Suffering Servant. The Spirit told Philip to join him and explain who Isaiah was talking about. Because of that, he believed, was baptized along the way, and brought the Gospel to Africa! And Philip was translated to Ashdod!
3. **Propitiation** | This means to "turn away the wrath of God through sacrifice." God, Himself, provided the sacrifice to turn away His own wrath against sin!
 - Isaiah 53:5 *He was pierced for our transgressions... the punishment that brought us peace was on Him.*
 - 1 John 4:10 *This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*
 - Romans 3:25 *God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement (propitiation), through the shedding of his blood....* (1 John 2:2, 4:10)
4. **Redemption** | This is the releasing from captivity, slavery or death by payment of a price, called a ransom.
 - Titus 2:11-14 *...while 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 (purchase, buy*

us back) from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (Hosea 3:1–2)

5. **Reconciliation** | This is the great blessing of salvation: that we are brought back into a relationship with God.

- Romans 5:10–11 *For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!...*

CHALLENGE... Because the Father gave His best, not something convenient (Romans 8:32), and because the Son willingly laid down His life, no one taking it from Him (John 10:18), we are not called to casual Christianity or comfortable compromise. **We are called to surrender!** If heaven held nothing back, how can we?