



# WHY DID JESUS DIE?

## Part 2: TO SAVE US FROM SIN

Of all the questions regularly asked about Jesus, the question, 'Why did Jesus die?' must be among the most frequent. It is certainly the most fascinating.

-- N.T. Wright, *The Reasons For Jesus' Crucifixion*

You do not understand Christ till you understand his cross.

-- P.T. Forsyth, *The Cruciality of the Cross*

Nothing in the Christian system is of greater consequence than the doctrine of the atonement.

-- John Wesley, *A Compendium of Wesley's Theology*

Humanity cannot escape God. The race exists in an unavoidable relation to God, either of wrath and alienation, or of blessing and fellowship. Sin places us under the first; the Atonement makes it possible for us to regain the second.

-- Richard S. Taylor, *God's Integrity and the Cross*

He bore the judgment we deserve in order to bring us the forgiveness we do not deserve. On the cross divine mercy and justice were equally expressed and eternally reconciled.

-- John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*

On the cross, God is manifest as the God of indiscriminate love; the God who offers grace – not cheap grace, but grace nonetheless – to the vilest evildoer.

-- Miroslav Volf, *Forgiveness, Reconciliation and Justice (In Stricken By God?)*

Jesus did not come to change the mind of God about humanity. Jesus came to change the mind of humanity about God.

-- Richard Rohr, *The Franciscan Opinion*

Why is the death of the Physician necessary? For most atonement theories this is the heart of the problem. If God is omnipotent and merciful, why demand a route to salvation that exacts the price of the death of God's Son?

-- Bruce R. Reichenbach, *The Nature of the Atonement: Four Views*

As loving Creator, God has no intrinsic need to punish us before forgiving us. Rather, like the father in the parable of the prodigal son, God is always waiting with open arms to forgive.

-- Paul R. Eddy, *The Nature of the Atonement: Four Views*

**Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;  
it was our sorrows that weighed him down.  
And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,  
a punishment for his own sins!**

**<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our rebellion,  
crushed for our sins.**

**He was beaten so we could be whole.**

**He was whipped so we could be healed.**

**-- The Prophet Isaiah**