

Christ Our Passover

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Jesus Christ was ordained from the very beginning to become our Passover Lamb for all time. Jesus Christ provided the sacrifice; that sacrifice provided the blood that was necessary to cleanse us from our sins. Innocent and guiltless blood was required for the atonement of sin. His blood provided the atoning sacrifice that was necessary to free all of mankind from all sin, for all time. This one sacrifice replaced the entire sacrificial system that had been put into place with the first covenant and the Levitical priesthood. Christ replaced that sacrificial system with His sacrifice and he replaced that priesthood with a new priesthood and He now serves as our High Priest.

Revelation 13:8

8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him (the beast), whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

From the time of creation, it was a foregone conclusion that Christ would become the Passover sacrifice. The sacrifice that He made was the covering sacrifice for all of mankind. It is those that receive Christ in the knowledge of what He has done and why He did it; that will receive cleansing, protection and eventually eternal life from that sacrifice. It is important to realize, that it is those who receive the covering sacrifice of Jesus Christ in the complete and full knowledge of what it means, are the only ones who will be covered by it.

Anyone can profess Christ, but it takes the full understanding and knowledge of why He did, what He did, and the meaning and symbolism of that act, to fully receive the blessing and cleansing that we are intended to receive from it. So, even though someone may say that they accept Christ, unless they **understand** what they are accepting, it has no real meaning. We have to fully understand what it is that we are accepting and we have to understand the true meaning of that sacrifice and what is expected of us. When we accept that sacrifice, we are also entering into a covenant with God. Christ's blood ratified the new covenant and put it into effect. We are bound to abide by the terms of that covenant. When we accept Christ, we are agreeing to be bound by the terms of that covenant.

Satan tried to prevent Christ from doing the task that He was sent to do. He knew exactly what was at stake and what it meant for Christ to come to this earth, take on a body of flesh and to overcome this world. He knew that it meant utter defeat for him and his plans. He tried to have Jesus murdered as a child. Herod had learned from the wise men; that a child had been born that they called the King of the Jews.

After a failed attempt to locate the child, Herod issued a decree to kill all male children in Bethlehem, two years old and younger.

Matthew 2:16

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

Pharaoh had had issued a similar edict in Egypt when Israel was in bondage there. Pharaoh was attempting to control the population of the Israelites by killing the male children.

Exodus 1:22

²² So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

God caused Moses to be saved from Pharaoh's hand and he was set afloat in an ark made of reeds as an infant of 3 months old.

Exodus 2:2-4

² So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful *child*, she hid him three months. ³ But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid *it* in the reeds by the river's bank. ⁴ And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

God caused Jesus to be saved from Satan's hand. An angel of God appeared to Joseph and warned him that the child Jesus was in danger.

Matthew 2:13-15

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." ¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*"

Why would God send the child to Egypt for protection? Is there something significant about sending the child to Egypt? God had originally sent His chosen people to Egypt for protection and preservation.

The first Passover lambs came from Egypt, the Israelites observed the very first Passover when they were in bondage in Egypt. The Passover lamb for all time also came from Egypt. Jesus Christ was selected and set apart as the Passover sacrifice.

John 12:1-2

¹ Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead,* whom He had raised from the dead. ² There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him.

The Jews count days inclusively, which means the current day is included in the count. Counting back six days from the Passover, which is the 14th, this day would have been the 9th of Abib, or Nisan.

John 12:12-13

¹² The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!*" The King of Israel!"

Here on the very next day, Christ is entering Jerusalem and He is met by a large group of people who are welcoming Him and worshipping Him. This the next day after He had been in Bethany. Adding one day means that this is now five days from the Passover, or the 10th of Abib, or Nisan. What day were the Passover lambs to be set apart?

Exodus 12:3

³ Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of *his* father, a lamb for a household.

Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem on the 10th of Abib, or Nisan. He was acknowledged as the messiah and the King of Israel by the people who were there to welcome Him. He was set apart on the 10th day, just as the Passover lambs were set apart in Egypt on the 10th day.

Isaiah 53:7

**7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.**

And so, Jesus Christ went to His death, the Passover Lamb for all time. It is no coincidence that Isaiah speaks of a lamb here. The parallel and symbolism is clear, Christ took the place of the Passover Lamb. The death of Jesus Christ was destined to occur, and it had to occur for the redemption of all mankind. There was no other way... sin had to be atoned for and in order for that atonement to take place, sacrificial blood was required.

Christ understood His fate very well and He knew what lay in front of Him and what He had to do. He was committed to the cause and to the job that He had been given to do. His only concern was to do the will of the Father. It was through His absolute commitment to do what God had set before Him and through His love for us; that He completed the task that He had been sent to do. He even predicted Himself, what was going to happen to Him.

Matthew 17:22

22 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men,

Jesus was trying to prepare His disciples for what was coming; He knew very well what His fate was and what He had to do. The entire plan of God was dependent upon Christ being able to overcome and to present Himself as the Passover sacrifice and to be found worthy and pleasing in God's sight as that sacrifice, perfect and without blemish.

Jesus had to be tempted and tried in every way. He had to face all of the same temptations and pulls of the flesh that we experience in our lives and then to still do what God had sent Him to do. He had to conquer and overcome, He had to put others above Himself and care and concern for others above His own, He had to lead and show the way for us, that we might also have hope and so that we could come to understand and believe that we can overcome in this life, just as He did.

Hebrews 4:15

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.

Christ did overcome and we can take heart from that, we can believe on it and we can know that we can overcome our flesh and conquer in this life just as He did, so that we can inherit eternal life with our God and with our savior Jesus Christ.

God loves us so much that He sent His son, His only son whom He loves dearly, who is precious to Him, to provide a way for us to enter His kingdom.

Jesus loves us so much that He willingly went to His death...He paid the price that we earned, so that we could inherit eternal life with Him and with the Father for all of eternity. Christ died because of us, but he also died for us.

John 16:32-33

³² Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. ³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Christ has overcome. He has risen and He is now serving as our high priest and making intercession for us. Even though Christ knew that His disciples were going to desert Him, He had compassion on them. He knew that they were going to be left alone in this world and He was trying to encourage them and give them something to hold on to...something to look forward to and to encourage them.

Jesus loved you and he laid down His life for you even before you were born! That is an incredible thing to think about. It is incredible to understand and to think that God's own son, Jesus Christ who is even now at the right hand of the Father, took on a fleshly body and gave His life...a perfect sinless life that we might live. All true believers and followers of Christ are as lambs too and Christ is our shepherd. He watches over us and protects us from the wolves who are poised to ravage the flock and from those who want to destroy and scatter the sheep.

John 10:7-10

⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly."

Christ gave himself for us that we might have abundant life. He was not talking about this physical life, though our physical existence is enhanced by our relationship with Him and we are to enjoy our lives here. He was speaking primarily of the life that we will have beyond our physical existence. Jesus has that life now at the side of God. He has a life that will continue forever without end, eternally with the Father for all time. We can have that life too, but we must overcome and we must put off the sinful life and become as pure and as free from sin as we possibly can be in this life.

We are called to come out of this world, to set ourselves apart and to remove ourselves from a life of sin and a life full of the temporal, fleeting things of this physical life that will all pass away and be burned up.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

⁶ Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump (foo'-ram-ah: literally a mass of dough)? ⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

It only takes one tiny, little bit of leavening, to leaven a whole lump. We are to become unleavened, free from sin...free from those things that cause us to be puffed up and full of pride. Sin is sin, it is all detestable in the sight of God. There is no degree of sin, no matter how small that we may think it is, it is huge in God's sight and He wants it out of our lives. If you want more of God's Spirit indwelling within you, then you **must** get the sin out of your life. God cannot dwell where there is sin! What is sin?

1 John 3:4

⁴ Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

Sin is the breaking of God's law. What is the penalty for sin?

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Christ gave Himself to make that happen...without that sacrifice we could never be free from the death penalty that we have all earned by our sin. We have to renounce our life of sin, give it up and put it behind us in order to be covered by the Passover sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

When we give up our life of sin and we accept the sacrifice that Christ made for us, the blood that He shed for us, then we can receive that promise of eternal life in God's kingdom. Our hearts and our minds have to be marked with the blood of Jesus Christ, just as Israel marked their doorposts and lintels on that first Passover, so that we can be passed over for the sins that we have and have had in our lives.

We must continue to go before God and confess all of our sins and ask for forgiveness, so that we can continue to be covered and passed over by that sacrifice that Christ made on our behalf. There is no universal salvation and there is no once saved always saved rule. Every single person has things in their life that they must repent of and be forgiven for. None of us are perfect!

1 John 1:5-10

⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 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 Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

It is a terrible thing to be caught up in the sin of self righteousness, to be puffed up with pride and arrogance and to deceive even ourselves, yet many do just that. We can go along telling ourselves that we are a good person and that there is nothing wrong in our lives, but we are just fooling ourselves. As we just read, if we do that we make God a liar and His word is not in us.

There is no one on this earth that is perfect and there is only one that was perfect and without blemish...Jesus Christ, who qualified, was set apart and served as our Passover Lamb for all time. Christ was prophesied to serve as the Passover long before He ever walked the earth and His coming and the things that He would suffer were prophesied.

Isaiah 50:5-6

**⁵ The Lord GOD has opened My ear;
And I was not rebellious,
Nor did I turn away.
⁶ I gave My back to those who struck Me,
And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard;
I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.**

Christ suffered the humiliation, the beating, the mocking, the laughter, the pain, and the rejection, hated and despised by the very ones who He had come to save. What would any of us have done in that situation?

Christ had the power to do whatever He wished, yet His wish...His desire...was only to do the will of the Father and to fulfill His destiny. He knew the entire fate of mankind, the entire outcome of God's plan depended on Him being able to follow through with what He knew was in store for Him.

Isaiah 53

¹ Who has believed our report?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,
And as a root out of dry ground.
He has no form or comeliness;
And when we see Him,
There is no beauty that we should desire Him.
³ He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him;
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.
⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment,
And who will declare His generation?
For He was cut off from the land of the living;
For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.
⁹ And they* made His grave with the wicked –
But with the rich at His death,
Because He had done no violence,
Nor *was any* deceit in His mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him;
He has put *Him* to grief.
When You make His soul an offering for sin,
He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days,
And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.
¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul,* *and* be satisfied.
By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,
For He shall bear their iniquities.
¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,
And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,
Because He poured out His soul unto death,
And He was numbered with the transgressors,
And He bore the sin of many,
And made intercession for the transgressors.

Can you imagine what it would be like to know that you were going to give your life to save a people from certain death and also to know that they were going to completely reject you, despise and hate you, yet you continued on anyway despite whatever things you personally suffered? That takes absolute commitment, force of will and God's Spirit. Christ could have failed, He could have yielded to temptation...Satan offered Him the world, yet He rejected the temptations of the flesh and overcame knowing full well the fate that awaited Him.

Psalm 22:6-19

⁶ But I *am* a worm, and no man;
A reproach of men, and despised by the people.
⁷ All those who see Me ridicule Me;
They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*,
⁸ "He trusted* in the LORD, let Him rescue Him;
Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"
⁹ But You *are* He who took Me out of the womb;
You made Me trust *while* on My mother's breasts.
¹⁰ I was cast upon You from birth.
From My mother's womb
You *have been* My God.
¹¹ Be not far from Me,
For trouble *is* near;
For *there is* none to help.
¹² Many bulls have surrounded Me;
Strong *bulls* of Bashan have encircled Me.
¹³ They gape at Me *with* their mouths,
Like a raging and roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water,
And all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax;
It has melted within Me.
15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And My tongue clings to My jaws;
You have brought Me to the dust of death.
16 For dogs have surrounded Me;
The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.
They pierced My hands and My feet;
17 I can count all My bones.
They look *and* stare at Me.
18 They divide My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots.
19 But You, O LORD, do not be far from Me;
O My Strength, hasten to help Me!

As He hung there dying, His life force ebbing from Him, He still had focus and presence of mind. He was still committed to the goal of the giving of Himself completely, even to death. Then, finally at His weakest moment He was left to face His fate all alone as even God deserted Him. God had to remove His Holy Spirit from Him, so that He could conquer and overcome by Himself and qualify to be the Lamb of God.

Mark 15:34

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*"

That was the supreme test for Christ as he faced death, finally, all alone. His faith completely in God and His promise to raise Him back from the dead. We have that same promise, God will raise us up too. Whether we are already asleep, or whether we remain until the time of Christ's return, we will be raised on that day and that is a promise that we can count on and that will never be broken and Christ made it possible by causing us to be passed over by His sacrifice.

Psalm 34:18-22

18 The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart,
And saves such as have a contrite spirit.
19 Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous,
But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

²⁰ He guards all his bones;
Not one of them is broken.
²¹ Evil shall slay the wicked,
And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned.
²² The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,
And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

Because Christ is our Passover, we walk in newness of life. We are freed from the bondage of sin that had enslaved us and reigned cruelly and mercilessly over us. We are set free and our debt has been paid in full. That is why we are to be separate; that is why we are to set ourselves apart and come out of this world.

When we accept that sacrifice we are to become a new person, transformed and changed from who and what we were. We have to overcome this life now, just as Christ did and then one day we will be transformed from this weak fleshly existence, into a glorious eternal existence with spiritual bodies that will not be subject to the weaknesses that we now battle and wrestle with. We too will have qualified to live eternally in God's Kingdom.

2 Timothy 1:8-10

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel (we are to take part and to suffer whatever comes our way because of our belief and acceptance of God's word) according to the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, ¹⁰ but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

The time is coming when the world will mourn, because they did not recognize Christ as the Son of God and the Lamb of God. They did not appreciate His sacrifice and what was done for them. They did not discern the importance of being passed over and accepting Christ's atoning sacrifice.

Zechariah 12:10

¹⁰ "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

God, through His Spirit, has opened our minds. He has given us understanding and He has revealed to us that we are covered and passed over by the sacrifice and the blood of His Son.

By accepting that sacrifice, we have accepted God's terms for our salvation. We have entered into and we are in, a covenant relationship with God and we have received the promise of eternal life in His kingdom. We are sanctified, we are cleansed and we are justified by that Passover sacrifice for all time, Jesus Christ. Let us never take that for granted and let us never forget the price that was paid and the priceless gift that was given to us all.

(All scriptural references cited from the New King James Edition of the Holy Bible)

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