

Series:  
 V...for Vital  
 5 Things All Christians Believe

Today's Message:  
*Part 2 of 2*



Intro. Martin Luther

### **Vital Truth #1      Virgin Birth and Deity of Christ**

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; John 1:1-3, 14; Colossians 2:9

### **Vital Truth #2   Verbal, Plenary Inspiration of Scripture**

2 Timothy 3:16; Matthew 4:4; 5:17-18; John 17:17

### **Vital Truth #3   Vicarious Death of Christ (Substitutionary Atonement)**

Vicarious means Substitutionary.

Simply put. Christ suffered as a substitute for us, or instead of us, with the result that He paid for our sins.

Pictured in the OT Sacrificial System. The animal sacrificed was in place of, or instead of the sacrificer. The person or persons were supposed to place their hands on the sacrifice to imply representation. When the Abraham sacrificed the Ram caught in the woods it was in place of Isaac.

In the use of the Preposition “anti” It always and only means “instead of” not simply “on behalf of.”

Mark 10:45

<sup>45</sup>“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ***ransom for*** many.”

Ransom = payment

“for” (“anti”) = “instead of” or “in place of”

This is Christ’s own interpretation of His death.

1 Timothy 2:6

<sup>6</sup>who gave Himself as a ***ransom for*** all, the testimony *given* at the proper time.

He paid our “sin debt.”

## This Doctrine has to do with the Essential Meaning of Christ's Death.

Why did Christ die? Did Christ have to die?

False Theories of the Atonement

- Ransom to Satan Theory by Origen
- Moral Influence Theory by Abelard
- Martyr Theory by Secularist Humanists

Preposition "huper" means both "in behalf of" and "instead of"

"The idea included standing over someone to protect him and to receive the blows on his behalf in his place.

Romans 5:6-8

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died **for** the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will hardly die **for** a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died **for** us.

2 Corinthians 5:21

<sup>21</sup>He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Peter 3:18

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

He did not come to show us how to die. He came so we could live.

He did not come merely as an example of how to live.

He did not come merely to teach us. Many have done that.

He did not come merely to show us how much God loved us.

He took the penalty for our sin. God judged Him. On the Cross He became sin to God and God in fullness of wrath judged our sin. He took the judgment you and I deserve.

That's what the Bible teacher.

His death was not an accident of fate. Not a mere well-meaning martyr.

He was the Lamb of God slain before the foundations of the earth.

Illust. Maximillian Kolbe

Illust. Green p. 362

Black soldier who fell on the Grenade.

The tremendous fallacy of it today is that people believe they can add something to it. This fallacy is based on a false belief that they are not really that "lost." People too proud to admit their sinful, lost, hopeless condition before a Holy, and Righteous God.

They think they can add their own good works.

They try to add some sacraments.

They try to add suffering.

They try to add their own righteousness.

"Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling."

"I owed a debt I could not pay. He paid a debt He did not owe.  
I needed someone to take my sins away."

#### **Vital Truth #4 Victorious, Bodily Resurrection of Christ**

It is impossible for a person to deny the literal, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ and still be a Christian.

The Resurrection is part of the Gospel Message that must be believed in order for any person to be saved.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a FACT of History.

Christ really is ALIVE!

Anyone who tells you differently is not born-again and does not believe the Bible.

He was seen. Eyewitnesses who were willing to die for their testimony.

He changed lives then. He's still changing lives today.

- **The Resurrection was Predicted by Christ.**

Matthew 20:19

<sup>19</sup>and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up." He was a true prophet.

Matthew 28:6

<sup>6</sup>"He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.

- **The Resurrection was a Literal, Physical Reality.**

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; <sup>7</sup>then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; <sup>8</sup>and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

- **The Resurrection is Essential to Salvation.**

1 Corinthians 15:14, 17

<sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

<sup>17</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

The Resurrection of Christ makes Him different from all others.

Buddha's tomb	occupied
Mohammed's tomb	occupied
Confucious' tomb	occupied
Joseph Smith's tomb	occupied
Jesus' tomb	EMPTY!

He is Risen, Just as He said!

Illust. Thomas Jefferson. He was a Great Man, but he was not a Christian. Some say all the founding fathers were Deists who believed in a Creator God, but not an active, intervening God, and certainly not in the deity of Christ. The historical truth of the matter is that only 2 of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence ever claimed to be Deists. The rest were all evangelical, Bible believing Christians who attended church and were well versed in the theology of their day, which was Calvinism. But Thomas Jefferson was a Deist.

Illust. Tan 2775 Jefferson Bible The closing words of this Bible are, "There laid they Jesus and rolled a great stone at the mouth of the sepulcher and departed." Thank God our Bible does not end there. "He is not here. He is Risen!"

## **Vital Truth #5 Visible Return of Christ**

John 14:2-3

<sup>2</sup>"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Acts 1:11

<sup>11</sup>They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

### **How did Christ Ascend into Heaven?**

- In a Body
- In Time and Space
- In the Clouds

There is a debate among Christians about the Timing of Jesus' return.  
Pre-Millennial, Post-Millennial, A-Millennial  
Pre-Tribulational, Post-Tribulational, Mid-Tribulational,  
Those who interpret the Bible Literally, as I do, Believe He is coming Premillennial  
and Pre-Tribulational,  
But All Christians Agree He is Coming Again.

### **All Christians agree to the Fact of His Coming, but many disagree about the Time of His Coming.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Revelation 22:12

<sup>12</sup>“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

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- Virgin Birth & Deity of Christ
- Verbal, Plenary Inspiration of Scripture
- Vicarious, Substitutionary Death of Christ
- Victorious, Bodily Resurrection of Christ

- Visible Return of Christ

Invitation:

Let me tell you something ironic.

You can believe all these and still not be a Christian. You can believe them intellectually, and yet not accept them or apply them personally. You have never really asked Him to save you and forgive your sins. It is not just that Christ died for all mankind. He died to save you from the penalty of your sins. You have never really committed your eternal soul to His keeping.

But He Promises, "Whoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved.

Ask Him!

Put absolute Faith in God and His Word.

Sink or Swim

Live or Die

Here I Stand! Stand with Me!