

# *What Christ Has Wrought*

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John 3:19-21 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Eph 3:17-19 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

- I. He didn't come just to give to men eternal life without dealing thoroughly with what had taken it away from them in the first place.
  - A. That could have been accomplished without his birth, perfect life, death, burial, and resurrection, simply by letting men eat from the tree of life.
    - 1. Evidently, Adam and Eve COULD have eaten of the tree of life AFTER their sin.
    - 2. They were driven from the garden

“...lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:”  
(Genesis 3:22)

- B. Eternity in hell for the unsaved is not the saddest thing in the universe - it is only justice that sends them to hell.
  - 1. The saddest thing in the universe is that these rebels set themselves against God and refuse to turn from their own selfish and wicked way to the detriment of the Human race and all the universe.
  - 2. Mankind has only one attribute that is infinite, and that is sin.
  - 3. All his other attributes are limited by his sin.
  - 4. Therefore, on the basis of justice, his punishment should be infinite.
- C. Major error in modern Christianity is the teaching that salvation is primarily being saved from hell; from eternal punishment for sin.
- D. He came to take away sin — NOT just the punishment for sin, but sin itself.

1 John 3:4-10 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

- E. His name is Jesus because he came to save us, not primarily from hell, but from our sin, which is our rebellion against God, and restore our fellowship with Him.

Rom. 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, how much more, being reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

F. The root of sin is the attitude of the heart toward God.

Matthew 3:7-10 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

G. Sin is man's heart refusing to submit to God — Jesus came to save us from that.  
1. It is basically godlessness and rebellion.

Jude 8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

H. There are those who teach that if repentance is essential to salvation, then the work of Christ was not enough.  
1. They call repentance works, but they have it upside down, because repentance is a result of a work of God in our heart.  
2. If repentance is not necessary then Christ died for nothing, because our sin remains, and we remain under its dominion.  
I. Repentance comes before faith.  
1. "I am wrong!" must come before "Now I believe."

Matthew 21:32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

2. No one can cling to their sin and maintain a rebellious heart and stubborn attitude toward God and at the same time say they believe God.  
3. To believe God is to be of the same mind about everything, which includes by sin and rebellion against Him.  
J. He came that men would repent.

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Matthew 3:2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (John the Baptist)

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Matthew 11:20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not:

Matthew 11:21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Matthew 11:23-24 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

- K. So the dominating word in all the message of God throughout the Old and New Testaments is “repent.”
  - L. For those who are brought face to face with the Son of God and the Atonement He has provided, and still refuse to submit to him, Hell will not be too hot.
  - M. Repentance is not about obeying the law. It is about having a right heart attitude towards God, which results in obedience to the law.
    - 1. All acts of wickedness and disobedience to God’s law and authority come from a wrong heart no one ever disobeyed God from a right heart.
    - 2. But any act of obedience and goodness can spring from either a right heart towards God or a wrong heart towards him, so it is not by works that we are justified before God; do not be deceived by your own good works which you have substituted for a truly repentant heart before God.
    - 3. This is why Paul, after reminding the Galatians that no one is justified by the works of the law states that no fornicator, unclean person, covetous person who is an idolater has any inheritance in the kingdom of God. If the heart is good, so will be the actions that flow from the heart.
    - 4. This is what Christ meant when he said that if you make the tree good, the fruit will be good.
    - 5. If repentance is not a necessary part of the salvation process, the idolater, the fornicator, the greedy person and others like that will certainly inherit the kingdom of God.
    - 6. If repentance, that change of heart towards God does not come first then Christ’s life, death and resurrection achieves nothing more than what Scripture tells us eating from the tree of life could have done in the first place.
  - N. Sin cannot result from a heart that is right with God.
  - O. A change of heart is foundational to any one of us being fit for Heaven.
    - 1. Salvation doesn’t take away our power of choice any more than getting married takes it away.
    - 2. We are faithful to Him because of our love for Him, and thankfulness for his love for us – not because of the fear of punishment if we disobey, but because we do not want to ruin our relationship with Him.
    - 3. This is the only way a rebel’s heart is to be conquered and changed.
  - P. Why is godlessness allowed?
    - 1. To prove once and for all that it does not work. Unfortunately only by seeing what transpires during that short space of time compared to eternity that sin is allowed to exist will all God’s creatures truly and fully believe in the need for him to have the throne of the universe.
    - 2. Example: we let children and teenagers learn by experience that certain actions will bring suffering on their part.
- II. He came to reveal the deep depravity of man.
- A. Man does not really understand or realize how desperately wicked he is.

- B. Every sinner will deny that he actually hates God, or that he is against God.
- C. He must be made aware of God's gestures and actions toward him, and of his resistance to them.
- D. Every man hates God as much as those that cried out, Crucify him! and those that drove the nails in his hands and his feet.
- E. This was man's reaction to the express image of God.
  - 1. ...to the Word made flesh and dwelling among us.
  - 2. ...to the One who came to reveal the heart of God toward man.
  - 3. ...to the One who came to redeem them from all their iniquity.
- F. Every man is guilty of the blood of the Son of God and needs to have that blood brought upon his head.

Acts 5:28 ... and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

### III. When they killed the Prince of life ...

Acts 3:14-15 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

- A. To be punished for somebody else, you have to be completely innocent of the crime. This is why Jesus lived a sinless life.
- B. They were not killing just another man — they denied the Holy One and the Just.
- C. And desired a murderer be given them.
- D. The rocks rent and darkness covered the earth.
- E. The angels must have wept.
- F. The Devil and his angels surely rejoiced.

### IV. It looked like the end, but it was only the beginning.

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:1-3 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Hebrews 2:14-15 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Romans 6:17-18 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

- A. This is what Christ has wrought – freedom from sin itself.
  - 1. From its power.
  - 2. From its guilt.
  - 3. From its penalty.
  - 4. And coming soon, from its presence.