Why Did Jesus Die?

Who Jesus was (is) and why He died has been a topic of discussion for hundreds of years. A few of the theories are that He was a criminal who died for his crimes, a martyr for His beliefs, a revolutionary leading a revolt against the king. But none of this is true! So exactly who was (is) Jesus, and why did He die the way He did? It would take volumes of books to explain in minute detail all that was involved in this, and that has already been done. The Bible is God's Word and is therefore the **ONLY** legitimate source from which we may obtain our information. So, to the Bible we shall go.

Because of the disobedience of one man, sin and death entered the world of humanity and, because of that, we are all born with a sin nature. "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.... And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." {Genesis 2:16-17; 3:6} "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" {Romans 5:12} It is because of this nature that the various acts of sin are committed. God required an atonement (payment) for being a sinner, and that required the giving of a life and the shedding of blood. In the Old Testament, it was an animal sacrifice as required by God, for the payment of sin, but that was only temporary because it had to be repeated over and over again, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." {Leviticus 17:11} God had promised that a Messiah would come, a Saviour, and that He would pay the sin debt once and for all. Who was that Messiah and how did He pay the sin debt?

Throughout the New Testament there are numerous references to Jesus Christ; the word Christ in the Greek is Christos, anointed, i.e. the Messiah and the word Jesus is the earthly name given at His physical birth. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. ... And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." {Matthew 1:18, 21} Because Mary was conceived of by the Holy Ghost, Jesus did **NOT** have the sin nature that is inherited by means of the human reproduction process. He was/is as Scripture says, ". . . a lamb without blemish and without spot:" {1 Peter 1:19b}

Why did Jesus die? Because **ALL** of us are sinners by birth and by deed. "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: . . . For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" {Romans 3:10; 23} Because of this, there was/is absolutely nothing that we can do to save ourselves; the payment for our sin debt (being a sinner) required a sinless sacrifice. When Jesus died and shed His innocent blood on the Cross of Calvary, He was once and for all paying our sin debt. "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;" {Hebrews 10:10-12} "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" {Hebrews 9:11-14}

Why did Jesus die? "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." {Romans 5:8" "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {John 3:16} **Why did Jesus die?** Because He loves us so much and, "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." {2 Peter 3:9}

Why did Jesus die? So that we may have our sins forgiven **NOW** and when we die, we will be with Him in Heaven for all eternity. When a person repents of their sin and by faith alone in the blood of Jesus, they

are forgiven; **ALL** of their sins are under the blood. We are still sinners but now, we are sinners saved by grace! "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." {Ephesians 2:8-9} We do have a responsibility to live our lives in such a manner that others will see Christ in us, that we will be a good testimony for Him. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." {1 Corinthians 6:19-20}

     Why did Jesus die? Because as a sinner we need a Saviour and, to die without a Saviour is to face eternity in hell. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." {John 3:36} Why **did Jesus die?** Because He loves **YOU**; because He wants to save **YOU**! It does not matter who you are or what you have done; if you will repent and trust Him as your personal Saviour, He will forgive and save you. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13}

For those who know Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, it is so important to read God's Word daily and to spend time in prayer. It is also important to seek a good, fundamental Baptist Gospel preaching church, and attend it regularly to help you grow spiritually, and to have fellowship with believers of like faith.

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