

## **Christ Paid the Penalty**

**I Peter 3:18**

*LeRoy Eims*

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” (I Peter 3:18).

Jesus Christ was no stranger to suffering while He was here on the earth. In spite of the fact that He had no guilt of His own and could have politely declined all suffering if He had chosen to do so, the facts are that He did not. The Bible says, “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered” (Hebrews 5:8).

The reason for His suffering was the sins of others. He suffered for sins, but in the case of our Lord, it was the Just for the unjust. He substituted Himself in our place and bore our iniquities. He, who had no sin, was made sin that we who have no righteousness, might be made righteous in the sight of God.

His sacrifice was so great and so worthy, with such merit and perfection that for Him to die once was enough. He suffered once for sins.

You will remember that the sacrifices of the Old Testament were repeated from day to day and from year to year.

Why did He make this sacrifice? To bring us to God; to give us access to God. “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ” (Ephesians 2:13). “For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father” (Ephesians 2:18). “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh” (Hebrews 10:19,20).

Now think with me for a moment. If the eternal Son of God was not exempt from suffering, why should Christians be? Especially when the Bible clearly teaches: “For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for His sake” (Philippians 1:29).

He was perfectly just and righteous. You and I were criminals in the courts of God, having broken His law, defied His commandments, and blasphemed His Name.

So then, let us review the main points of this vital Bible verse: What did Christ do? He died for us and rose again. Why did He do it? To bring us to God.

There are two reasons why He had to bring us. First of all, we had fallen short in our own attempt. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Secondly, we can't make it by our own works. “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).

So then, in light of it all, let me ask you; have you ever turned to God in repentance and placed your trust in Jesus Christ? Why not do it now?

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