

Decorating the Tree – Part 2 – 2/28/21

Last week we saw that the cross of Christ was decorated with the curse of God upon sin! Today I ask you, what else was placed upon that Easter tree?

Jesus was both fully God & fully man! Why is this dual reality so significant?

In His humanity he paid the penalty that our sin requires - death! In His divinity, He lived the life we failed to live & conquered the grave that holds us captive!

If those two statements don't lead us to shout "Amen" I don't know what will!

- If we are not moved by this, then we are either still asleep, or we don't fully understand the impact of what Jesus accomplished on the cross?

Let's just look at one aspect of Jesus on the cross today – His humanity!

Jesus was a real human being – born, childhood, adulthood, etc. And his human body was tortured and put to death upon that cursed tree!

Why is it so important that Jesus was fully human?

1) Sin originated w/ man, therefore the judgment upon sin also falls on man!

Hebrews 2:14-15 – "... He too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who has the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."

H.C. #14 Q. **Can another creature – any at all – pay this debt of sin for us?**

A. *No. To begin with, God will not punish another creature for what a human is guilty of. Besides, no mere creature can bear the weight of God's eternal anger against sin and release others from it.*

If Jesus was to take the full curse of our sin upon himself he had to be human

2) For Jesus to be our true representative, he needed the human experience

Hebrews 2:17-18 – "Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."

What in the world is propitiation? The act of regaining favor with God.

H.C. # 15 Q. **What kind of mediator & deliverer should we look for then?**

A. *One who is truly human and truly righteous, yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, one who is also true God. More on that next week.*

3) Only a truly righteous man could reverse the curse upon mankind!

Romans 5:18-19 – "Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification & life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous"

H.C. #43 Q. **What further advantage do we receive from Christ's**

sacrifice & death on the cross? A. *Through Christ's death our old selves are crucified, put to death, & buried with Him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us...*

There would be no hope for us being new creations in Christ unless our old selves were also put to death with Christ in His body!

Jesus died as a real human being, he experienced all that being human represents, and He did it so that our old selves would die along with Him!

Picture a courtroom scene – You are on trial for breaking the law and the judge finds you guilty. The judge sentences you to death for your crimes.

- Who deserves to pay the penalty of your actions?
- Why can't an animal or a bribe suffice as payment for your crimes?
- Why can't another criminal take your place?
- Why is Jesus the only hope you have?

When Jesus stands in that courtroom & takes the penalty of our sin upon Himself, in His death, something else also gets put to rest? Our rap sheet!

The cross was what we deserved & death was the payment required to set us free – Jesus paid that price in His humanity for all of eternity!

We can either accept that & ask Him to be our substitute, or we can suffer defeat under the weight of our own sin!

A baseball story – Let Jesus be your pinch-hitter!

1 Peter 2:24 – "He Himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."

Decorating the Tree – Part 2 – 2/28/21

Last week we saw that the cross of Christ was decorated with _____ of God upon sin! Today I ask you, what else was placed upon that Easter tree?

Jesus was both fully God & fully ____ Why is this dual reality so significant?

In His humanity he paid the penalty that our sin requires - death! In His divinity, He lived the life we failed to live & conquered the grave that holds us captive!

If those two statements don't lead us to shout _____ I don't know what will!

- If we are not moved by this, then we are either still asleep, or we don't fully understand the impact of what Jesus accomplished on the cross?

Let's just look at one aspect of Jesus on the cross today – His _____

Jesus was a real human being – born, childhood, adulthood, etc. And his human body was tortured and put to death upon that cursed tree!

Why is it so important that Jesus was fully human?

1) Sin originated w/ man, therefore the _____ upon sin also falls on man!

Hebrews 2:14-15 – “... He too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who has the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”

H.C. #14 Q. Can another creature – any at all – pay this debt of sin for us?

A. No. To begin with, God will not punish another creature for what a human is guilty of. Besides, no mere creature can bear the weight of God's eternal anger against sin and release others from it.

If Jesus was to take the full curse of our sin upon himself he had to be human

2) For Jesus to be our true representative, he needed the human _____

Hebrews 2:17-18 – “Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”

What in the world is propitiation? The act of regaining _____ with God.

H.C. # 15 Q. What kind of mediator & deliverer should we look for then?

A. One who is truly human and truly righteous, yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, one who is also true God. *More on that next week.*

3) Only a truly righteous man could _____ the curse upon mankind!

Romans 5:18-19 – “Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification & life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous”

H.C. #43 Q. What further advantage do we receive from Christ's

sacrifice & death on the cross? A. Through Christ's death our old selves are crucified, put to death, & buried with Him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us...

There would be no hope for us being _____ in Christ unless our old selves were also put to death with Christ in His body!

Jesus died as a real human being, he experienced all that being human represents, and He did it so that our old selves would die along with Him!

Picture a courtroom scene – You are on trial for breaking the law and the judge finds you guilty. The judge sentences you to death for your crimes.

- Who deserves to pay the penalty of your actions?
- Why can't an animal or a bribe suffice as payment for your crimes?
- Why can't another criminal take your place?
- Why is Jesus the only hope you have?

When Jesus stands in that courtroom & takes the penalty of our sin upon Himself, in His death, something else also gets put to rest? Our _____

The cross was what we deserved & death was the payment required to set us free – Jesus paid that price in His humanity for all of eternity!

We can either accept that & ask Him to be our substitute, or we can suffer defeat under the weight of our own sin!

A baseball story – Let Jesus be your _____!

1 Peter 2:24 – “He Himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”