

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – ATONEMENT



*In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever!  
Till my ransom soul shall find,  
Rest beyond the river!*



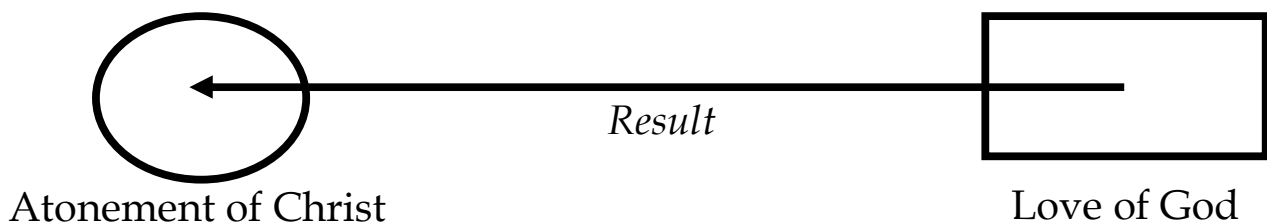
This is a popular Christian hymn, singing about the Cross. Why do Christians sing about the Cross? The Cross is the symbol of Christianity. But what is the meaning of the Cross? Have you ever asked such questions?

Every Good Friday, the church remembers the death of Jesus on the Cross. Why must Jesus Christ, the Son of God, come into this world? Why, having come into this world, must He die? Why must He die such a cruel death on the Cross? The death of Jesus on the Cross is called ‘the atonement’. **Why is the atonement necessary?**

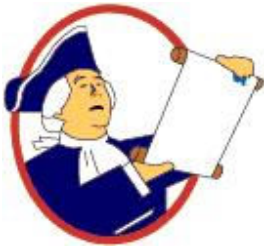
Negatively, it wasn't to win God's love! God is love. God is love does not mean that He must love undeserving and hell-deserving sinners. Even if He doesn't love sinners, He is still love. The amazing fact is that God is love and He loves sinners!



**John 3:16** says, “For God so loved . . . that He gave His only begotten . . .” Jesus did not die on the Cross to win God's love. Jesus died on the Cross because of God's love!



The atonement was the result of God's love, not the cause!



Positively, it was because God cannot deny Himself! God is holy, righteous and just. Therefore He cannot overlook sin. Sin is rebellion against God. God must react against sin with holy indignation. Sin must meet divine judgment.

If sin is not dealt with, then we cannot say that God is just. For God to pardon sin and yet remain holy, righteous and just, Jesus must die on the Cross. God cannot deny Himself!

Positively, it was because God cannot lie! This is one of the great “cannots” of God! **Galatians 3:10** says that he who breaks the law must die. We all broke the Law so we must all die. Unless someone dies on our behalf and pays the penalty for us. God cannot just cover up our sin. That would make God a liar. So Jesus died to pay the penalty!



Positively, it was because there is no other way! If there is, then Jesus Christ would never need to die. We say that the Cross is the supreme demonstration of God’s love. It is the supreme demonstration of God’s love precisely because of its extreme costliness to God! It costs God His beloved Son!

Yes, salvation comes to us free, *absolutely free!* But it costs God His Son! If the Cross is unnecessary, if there is any other way of salvation, do you think God will sacrifice His only begotten Son?

*Why do I sing about Jesus?  
Why is He precious to me?  
He is my Lord and my Saviour,  
Dying He set me free!*

