

## BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – HE DIED FOR WHOM?

*When Satan tempts me to despair and tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there, who made an end of all my sin,  
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free,  
For God, the Just, is satisfied, to look on Him and pardon me.*

**Matthew 1:21** says that Mary will bring forth a Son and His name shall be called 'Jesus', for He will save His people from their sins. How will He save His people from their sins? By dying on the Cross!

Last week, we've seen that the Cross must be viewed as *obedience, sacrifice, propitiation, reconciliation* and *redemption*. For whom was Christ *obedient* unto death? He was the *sacrifice* for whose sin? On whose behalf did He *propitiate* the anger of God? Whom did He *reconcile* God to? He *redeemed* who from the curse of the law, from the guilt of sin? To put it simply, when Jesus died on the Cross, for whom did He die? There are THREE possible answers:

- Jesus died to save all men
- Jesus died to save some men
- Jesus died to save no man

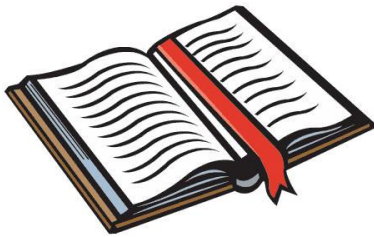


The “Jesus died to save no man” answer may shock you, but many actually hold to this position in theory. Many today believed that when Jesus died on the Cross, He removed all the obstacles that stopped sinners from coming to God. He has made salvation possible. If this is the case, then **Matthew 1:21** must be re-written as: *He shall make the salvation of His people possible*. He didn't save His people. He merely made them save-able. Is that Scriptural?

Similarly, we will have to say that the Cross makes us *redeem-able*, not *redeemed*; *reconcile-able*, not *reconciled*! Whether we will be redeemed / reconciled, it is entirely up to us! In this case, Jesus died to save no man – He died to merely make salvation possible! This cannot be true if we believe the Bible!!

How about “Jesus died to save all men”? If He died to save all men, then why are there some men in hell today, suffering for their sins? Why does the Bible

talk of people perishing in hell? Either you don't believe there is hell, or if you do, you must believe that man can still be saved in hell. If there is no salvation in hell, and Christ died to save them, then Christ must have failed in His mission! Can this be? God forbid!!



This leaves us with only one possible answer: *Jesus died to save some men.* This is not just a possible answer, it is the Biblical answer. Come back to **Matthew 1:21**. What does it say? *He shall save His people . . .* When Jesus died on the Cross, He died for His people and only them!

The issue here is not "*How many can Jesus save?*" He can save every single person for His death is sufficient, all sufficient, for the salvation of the whole world, or 10,000 worlds! His blood can wash away every sin of every sinner that has ever lived, is now living or will live on this planet earth.

Rather, the issue is "*How many will Jesus die for?*" He can save all men but He will only save some men. Here is a river that can satisfy the thirst of every person fully without it ever drying up, yet it is only meant for a selected group. Jesus is the ladder for sinners to come to God. The ladder is strong enough to hold every one and wide enough for all. Yet that is different from saying that the ladder is meant for all.

Consider **Ephesians 5:25** ~ *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.* Christ loves the church and gave Himself for it. (This is to be an example to husbands, on how we should love our wives.) Now, are all men part of the church? Judas Isacriot, Adolf Hitler, Pol Pot and the souls of all who are in hell this day --- are they part of "the church"? Paul says that Jesus Christ loves the church and expresses that love by dying for the church. Who is the church? Every one? If we cannot say that the church equals everyone, then we must not say that Jesus died for everyone.

This is not an academic issue. When Jesus died on the Cross, He **REALLY** and **ACTUALLY** accomplished salvation for His people! Unless that is so, I cannot sing and glory in the truth that "*because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free, for God, the Just, is satisfied, to look on Him and pardon me.*"

**WEI En Yi**