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## Must Jesus Die on the Cross?



The heart of the Christian faith centres on the life, death and resurrection of its founder. There is one Person who is God Himself, Jesus Christ who had died more than 2,000 years ago. Before Good Friday, Jesus went through agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Judas betrayed Jesus and delivered Him to the Romans. Peter denied Jesus three times before Jesus was crucified on the cross.

Jesus was crucified in AD 33, and he hung on the cross at Calvary from 9am to 3pm.

The question to ask ourselves today is, '**Must Jesus die at all? Could Jesus have saved us in another way without going to the cross?**' In Luke 23, Jesus was taunted. In verses 35 and 37, the people challenged Jesus to save Himself.

In verse 39, the unbelieving thief challenged Jesus to save himself and the two thieves. Today, we have 3 views to answer this important question: Must Jesus die? All 3 views have the same answer, but they are for different reasons.

### 1. Romans' Point of View

- The charge against Jesus is that of treason. Treason is a charge deserving of capital punishment. Jesus was accused of challenging Caesar, the Roman king. He was also accused of 'robbing' Caesar, by not paying taxes to the Roman government. These charges were absolutely baseless and false, for Jesus, in Matthew 22:21 said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things which are God's."
- Pilate, the Roman governor, found Jesus not guilty in their trials. Due to the pressure from the people around him, Pilate under pressure from the Pharisees and the Sanhedrin and for political reasons, allowed Christ to be condemned to die on the cross under false charges. **Even though the charges were not proven conclusively, Jesus was still crucified but it fulfilled the will of God for without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.**

### 2. Jewish Leaders' Point of View

- The Jews crucified Jesus because they said that Jesus claimed to be able to destroy the temple that took more than 10 years to build and restore it again in just 3 days. They could not accept that Jesus was the Son of God, and that He claimed to be equal with Yahweh, the Almighty God.

- This claim by Jesus was, to them, blasphemy and punishable by the worst form of punishment. The Romans devised crucifixion, which was the worst and most brutal form of execution. It was reserved for the worst criminals, for it was a slow and agonizing death. These were the false reasons why Jesus must die, and for these false reasons, they led Jesus to the cross to be crucified. However, we are interested to find out Jesus' reasons for why He must die to save us.

### 3. God's Point of View

#### a. Prophesized in the Old Testament the Death and Resurrection of Christ

- The Triune God in all His infinite wisdom devised the only acceptable divine plan to save some people though all have sinned against Him. In 1 Peter 1:2, we see that the divine plan required death by blood and by a perfect man who had not sinned (2Cor 5:21) and there are none on earth. **There are three parts to the Sovereign plan of salvation: God the Father elected some people to be saved, God the Son died on the cross to redeem them and God the Holy Spirit sanctifies them.** In 1 Peter 1:19-20, we see that it is through the precious blood of Christ that we can be saved. This plan was foreordained by the Triune God before the foundation of the world. (Eph 1:4,5)

#### b. Sins of Fallen Mankind - No man can be saved except through Christ.

- Because of our sins, it necessitates a perfect substitute to pay the price on our behalf. Nothing short of God becoming man to die on the cross and redeem us can save us. In John 18:37, Jesus admits that He is King. We see Jesus' purpose statement, "for this cause came I into the world". The Lord Himself purposed in His Sovereign Will to come and stand in the place of man. In Philippians 2 and Eph 1:4,5, we are told that the Lord condescended to redeem some men whom He had chosen. He is the only qualified candidate to save us and none else.

#### c. The Necessity of the Atonement - Christ is needed to deliver His people from the power of sin and death.

- In Hebrews 2:14, Jesus came to destroy the power of death.
- In Romans 3:23 and 6:23, we see that we have all sinned, and the wages of sin is death. We can only have eternal life through Christ. The death must include the shedding of blood. Without blood, Christ cannot save us. **Without the shedding of blood, there can be no remission of sin. There is no other option for the Triune God to save men except the sacrifice of the Son of God.**
- Jesus must die in a certain way as part of the Will of God for there is no other way. His death by crucifixion with the shedding of blood is absolutely necessary and is a part of God's Sovereign Plan. There is no plan B to the death on the cross available. If Jesus did not die for us, then sinful men will all have to die instead for our own sins. Satan tried to prevent Christ from going to the cross through his temptation of Jesus in Matthew 4. However, Satan failed to accomplish the task. Peter tried to stop Jesus, for which Jesus rebuked Peter, "Satan, get thee behind me." We need to humbly thank God that Jesus died on our

behalf and acknowledge that our greatest need is a suffering Messiah and His vicarious atonement for our sins.

**d. God is Righteous, Just and Holy, and requires the propitiation for sins**

- God cannot do something against His nature. He cannot save us without the punishment of sin, which is death. There is no way out to this, other than the solution that God himself must come. The death on the cross is a theological conundrum. **The death of the cross is the zenith of the plan of salvation. There is no plan B; the cross is the only way to save some men from eternal condemnation and Christ is the Only Person who can save us.**
- In Luke 23, there were two other thieves on the cross with Jesus. Both faced different destinies. One accepted that Jesus must die, one denied it. One taunted Jesus, but the other understood it clearly. In verses 40-41, one of the thieves chastised the other and proclaimed that Jesus did nothing amiss.
- By doing so, the thief made two important admissions:
  - i) *"does thou not fear God"* – He admitted that Jesus is God. Jesus is God and He died on our behalf. Jesus is not an ordinary man. This was the very God Himself standing and suffering at the cross next to them.
  - ii) He was a sinner guilty and worthy of punishment, but Jesus did nothing wrong and he did not believe that .
- We must respond in the same manner, that we need Christ. In verse 42, we see the cry of a penitent sinner – the thief asked Jesus to remember him. It is not enough to give an intellectual assent to Christ. There must be a personal confession and repentance of our sins. Which thief represents your heart and position today? Something to think about and act upon.

**Conclusion**

**There is only one way available for sinful man to be saved – one that has eternal consequences, to confess our sins and believe and trust in Christ alone. The difference can be a matter of a split second, just as it was for the two thieves at their dying breath.** The decision means a different destiny – eternal life in paradise or eternal death in condemnation. In some sense, we all have a part to play. We are the reason why He died on the cross and we need to repent of our sins and to turn to Christ, embrace Him as our Saviour, and like the thief, at the eleventh hour, received eternal life. The other option is to choose to laugh and rant and face eternal condemnation.

It is our call. All of us have to understand why Jesus must die for there is no other way in which God can save sinful man. Coming to church, doing good works alone cannot save us. That conviction of our sins will forever change the destiny of our lives. We have a duty to respond to it and believe that Jesus is God. If we believe and repent of our sins, when we die, we shall be in paradise with God. May we come to seek Christ today as our only Lord and Saviour before it is too late.

*Jack Sin*

## The Three Fluids Jesus Shed

*"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isa. 53:4-5)*



Whenever we come to the occasion of Good Friday, it is always a time of meditation and to think of the Lord who created time and space, entered the world at that specific moment, and was crucified for the sins of the world on a plan of the fullness of time (Eph. 1:10), a moment that was the darkest and most helpless in human history, a moment when it seemed as if the world had stopped running.

As the Lord walked on earth until the moment of His crucifixion. He shed three kinds of fluids for you, for me, and for His chosen children, each of which exemplifies the love and compassion of the Lord Jesus Christ for the world, and He expresses His supreme and perfect love for us in a way that has no comparable.

### The Tears of the Lord Jesus

At the tomb of Lazarus, the Lord wept for his beloved friend, as recorded in John 11:33-35: *"When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled. And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. **Jesus wept.**"* Indeed, the Son of God and the Son of Man, the incarnate God, wept. The Bible records three times that Jesus wept (Jn 11:35; Lk 19:41; Heb 5:7), and this is the shortest verse in the whole Bible! Jesus wept (Greek: **ἐδάκρυσεν** ), it is such a heart-wrenching verse that despite after two thousand years, it still moved & impact our hearts! Even the Jews, who did not believe, said, "See how earnestly He loved this man! Jesus wept, knowing that to fight against the enemy of mankind -- death, death itself would bring pain and mourning. Jesus wept, and He wept with those who mourned, an expression of love from the Highest & Almighty God to a humble man.

### The Sweat of the Lord Jesus

The scene of the Lord praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, drinking the cup of bitterness for the unbelieving world, and sweating like great drops of blood, is recorded in Luke 22:41-44: *"And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed*

*more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."*

The night before the crucifixion, after the Lord had eaten the Passover feast with His disciples, He came into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, and beads of sweat fell like great drops of blood. Bible commentators have two explanations for this. One is Hematidrosis, a rare medical phenomenon in which a person is in a state of extreme stress, weakness, and fear, causing the capillaries in the sweat glands to rupture, allowing blood to seep through the skin. Another explanation suggests that Jesus' beads of sweat were larger than their usual state, as large as blood drops, during his most painful and anxiety of prayer. Either way, let us ponder why the Lord perspires like blood and think about how arduous and precious His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane was! The battle of Good Friday begins with the prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, where He would bear all the sins of the world, become the Lamb for atonement, and be separated from God the Father! The shower of blood and sweat was because the Lord was in the midst of the darkest hour, and *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* (2 Cor. 5:21).

Our Lord, victorious in this battle of prayer, in the sweat of blood! He made a great declaration: *"nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."* (Mt. 26:39). In total submission to the will of His Sovereign Father, He went up to Calvary voluntarily, and pre-empted the triumphant song of the Cross!

### **The Blood of the Lord Jesus**

The Lord died on the cross on Calvary, shedding the last drop of His blood for the salvation of the souls of sinners. Ephesians 1:7 says, *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."* After the crucifixion, the Spirit of Jesus was given to God the Father, and the gory description in John 19:33-36 is so shocking that it would be impossible for the details to be so precise if it were not an actual historical scene, so much so that the most advanced medicine today confirms that after the death of the Lord Jesus, "one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out **blood and water.**" (v 34) This is a historical fact.

There are about a hundred verses in the Bible regarding the blood of the Lord Jesus, and this article has no space to list them all, however, let us sing in praise and give thanks to our Saviour, who shed His blood for the great redeeming work of saving us. We have so many words of gratitude for *"...Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."* (Heb. 12:24) In the Old Testament, Cain killed Abel (Gen. 4:8), so Abel's blood pleaded for vengeance. But the blood of our Lord Jesus proclaims the forgiveness of sins of the world, for *"without shedding of blood is no remission."* (Heb. 9:22)

Thank you, Lord! The shedding of His Holy Blood is a perfect demonstration of His great love for us! "*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" (Rom. 5:8)

Thank you, Lord! The shedding of His Holy Blood is a perfect demonstration of His suffering for us! The Lord is sinless but God made him to be sin (2 Cor. 5:21); He suffered once for sins, so that he might bring us to God (1 Pet. 3:18); He hung on the tree and bore our sins Himself (1 Pet. 2:24).

Thank you, Lord! The shedding of His Holy Blood is a perfect demonstration of His salvation for us! We were bought with a great price, the precious blood of the Lord, who paid our ransom, and we were redeemed from the power of darkness (Col. 1:13) so that we might triumph through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:55). "*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*" (1 Pet. 1:18-19)

Thank you, Lord! For "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*" (Gal. 2:20)

I quoted Isaiah 53:4-5 at the beginning of this article, but without the following two verses, it would not be a happy ending, for if the Lord Jesus had not shed His blood and been crucified, we would not have been able to come to God in righteousness and reconciliation.

*" Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."* (Isaiah 53:10-11)

Have I ever shed tears, sweat, or blood for the Lord? Have I loved the Lord as much as He loves me? How am I going to be repaid for His sacrificial love? I hope I will be able to bring people to know Jesus Christ, our Saviour, for it is beyond blessed to know Jesus personally, and what He has done to justify us before God. Believe that your debt has been paid. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. (Acts 16:31)

*Paul Kong*

**SOVEREIGNHOPE**  
bible presbyterian church

PRESENTS

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**  
7 APRIL 2023, 8:00 PM  
THE AGONISING CROSS OF  
REDEMPTION AND HOPE

**EASTER SERVICE**  
9 APRIL 2023, 10:00 AM  
THE DAY DEATH DIED

BY REV JACK SIN

COME AND FIND OUT THE TRUE MEANING OF  
THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST  
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR LIVES TODAY

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

VENUE :  
SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH  
160, PAYA LEBAR RD, ORION  
@ PAYA LEBAR #04-06, S(409022)

**SOVEREIGNHOPE**  
bible presbyterian church

**MAY DAY SEMINAR**  
**Biblical Perspective  
of Work and  
Retirement**

BY REV JACK SIN

AS WE APPROACH AN AGEING WORKFORCE, KNOW  
WHAT THE WORD OF GOD HAS TO TEACH US  
ABOUT THE NATURE OF WORK AND THE MANNER OF  
RETIREMENT FOR THE CHRISTIAN

**01 MAY 2023(MONDAY)**  
9:30 AM

VENUE :  
**SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH**  
160, PAYA LEBAR RD, ORION  
@ PAYA LEBAR #04-06, S(409022)

REGISTER BY 15 APRIL 2023  
WITH DN YUE KAY AT 97450311 AS THERE IS A LIMITED CAPACITY  
ALL ARE WELCOME

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR APRIL - JUNE 2023

**SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE OT FOR OUR LEARNING**

Date	Event
2 APRIL 2023	The Preaching and Ark Building of Noah (Gen 6:9-22)
7 APRIL 2023	Good Friday 8pm The Agonizing Cross of Redemption and Hope (John 19:13-42)
9 APRIL 2023	Easter - The Day Death Died (Matthew 28:1-12)
16 APRIL 2023	The Call and Equipping of Moses (Exodus 3:1-22)
23 APRIL 2023	Final Challenge from General Joshua (Joshua 24:14-31)
30 APRIL 2023	The Decisive Victory of David (1 Samuel 17: 32-51)

## Memory Verse

*John 19:37* And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Good Friday Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word tonight on "***The Agonizing Cross of Redemption & Hope (John 19:13-42)***".
3. Pastor will preach this Sunday, being Resurrection Sunday on "***The Day Death Died (Matt 28:1-12)***".
4. Pastor will preach next Sunday on "***The Call & Equipping of Moses (Exo 3:1-22)***", continuing the new quarterly series on "***Significant Events in the OT for our Learning***".
5. The following Sunday School classes are held every Sunday after the worship service:
  - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
  - Studies in 1 Chronicles – Dn Kwong Leen
  - Sermon Reflections – Dn Yue Kay & Paul Kong
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Basic Theology, and the Parables of Jesus. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode:625551**]
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [**Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode:218178**]
8. The **Annual May Day Seminar** on "***Biblical Perspective of Work & Retirement***" on **Monday 1 May 2023 9.30am – 1pm IN CHURCH**.
9. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 5 May 2023, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
10. The **Annual Church Camp** will be held at **Pulai Springs Resort (Johor Bahru, Malaysia), June 7-10, 2023**. Rev Philip Heng is our camp speaker "***Exercise unto Godliness in an Ungodly World***".
11. We need willing hands and hearts to assist in the weekly cleaning of the premises. Do let Dn Yue Kay if you are available to serve in this area.
12. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
  - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
  - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
  - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.