

# Sermon Notes

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## The Nature of the Death He Died

### *Philippians 2: 6 – 11*

Many people have accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour and have like a contractual agreement with God for their salvation. They would say they know Him and technically speaking they do, but is this what God wants?

We pray and it changes things in our life. God is a prayer answering God, His *agape* love is not dependent upon our returning the expression of His love, *agape love just is.*

It is God's longing for us to love Him, for who He is and not just the things he gives us. When we seek to foster a passionate love for God in us, a good place to start (and I believe the only place to start) is for us to grasp an understanding of what Christ did on the cross to redeem a lost world to himself.

The fact that for Him to destroy everything and start again, should make us realise how much mankind really means to Him.

We constantly face a never-ending challenge from the world, the flesh and the devil, which seeks to undermine our relationship with God and erode away any love we may have for Him. It is in our face daily and can overwhelm us, so we lose sight of the wonder of our relationship with God.

The word foster means to "nourish" – bring up, feed.

We need to nourish in each other the love of God.

Let's take a few moments today to encourage ourselves in who we are in Christ and what He has done for us.

Jesus atoning death on the cross is God demonstrating His love for us. *"While we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5).*

The amazing wonder of Christ's atoning substitutionary death on the cross. It is too easy for us to lose sight of this wonder.

***The miracle that the creator becomes the created so that the worst excesses of evil wickedness perpetrated by the created toward the creator might be totally eradicated by the substitutionary atoning death of the Creator as the created.***

As Newton wrote Amazing Grace.

How then did this happen?

At some point Satan or Lucifer was thrown out of heaven for his rebellion against God and with him some rebellious angels (note here that there is no redemptive power for angels) (*Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezra 28:12-19*). In his desire to become as God, he lost all God given authority he had as one of God's angels so he seeks to obtain it by tempting man into the same rebellion. So what Satan wants is man's God given authority, which man was given by God in the Garden of Eden. (*Genesis 1:28, 2:19-20*).

## What Satan Stole from Man in Eden.

By tempting Eve (and through her Adam) into rebellion against God, he was able to gain from man God's authority to rule over the earth and the kingdoms of man. At this point man should have died. The word "die" in *Genesis 3:3-4* means to die but also to kill.

We know that through this act of rebellion sin entered and with sin - death as we know it *Romans 5:12*.

So Satan gains man's Godly authority, man becomes a sinner and so becomes separated from God's presence *Genesis 3:23-24*. (It is with this authority he tempts Jesus) (*Matthew 4:8*) We can see how Satan will use the twisted truth to his own advantage, when he tells Jesus he has control of the world, that is the truth but he is economical with the truth of how he gained that authority, which was by lying.

At this point God should have destroyed all He had created, until this point nothing had been redeemable.

Now God in His mercy and grace, introduces the promises of redemption in *Genesis 3:15*.

God's Plan to Restore Man to Man's Rightful Place.

**God finds a man of faith and so creates a chosen nation, the man being Abram and his wife Sarai *Genesis 12 & Hebrews 11:12*.**

Through this people of promise and covenant, God brings forth a Saviour, fully God and fully man.

The need for a Saviour.

God could not just overlook man's sin, because God is a righteous God. He is both a God of love and a God of righteousness.

He would not destroy man because of His love, nor could He overlook sin because of His righteousness.

There was a need for a perfect sacrifice.

We see this mirrored in the Old Testament sacrifice but this was only ever a poor reflection of the Saviour to come. *Hebrews 7:18-25; 9:22-28; 10:1-12*.

The only way there can be a perfect sacrifice is for God Himself to be the sacrifice willingly, freely, sinless and of His own choice.

The work of the Saviour.

Christ brings reconciliation and peace with God.

*Isaiah 53:5 "The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him".*

*Romans 5:11 "Our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have now received reconciliation".*

Reconciliation – Greek – *kat-a-lag-ay* meaning to restore.

Peace - Greek – *eirene* (I-ray-nay) to join, peace, a perfect mending (not tranquillity).

## **The Cross First Deals with Sin and then Brings Peace.**

When Adam walked with God it was not a tested relationship. Jesus mended it on the cross creating an unbreakable relationship.

The work of the Saviour is so powerful that nothing can break this peace with God – Satan has no power over this.

## **The Nature of the Death He Died.**

*1 Peter 2:22-25 (v22 “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree”).*

### **1. Christ, up to His Death, Lived a Sinless Life.**

*1 John 3:5 “But you know that He appeared so that He might take away our sins and in him is no sin”.*

Any serious student of the life of Christ will see that Christ is totally and completely sinless in every part of his life

### **2. How Could Christ who Knew no Sin Take Away Sin?**

Jesus becomes sin for us. *2 Corinthians 5:21 “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God”.*

The words “to be” are not in the original Greek text, they were added in translation.

It reads “*God made Him who had no sin, sin for us*”.

He did not just carry sin in His pocket, He became sin for us.

An example would be of a Dr taking a blood sample to find a cure, actually injecting himself with the blood and taking on the actual sickness.

## **Jesus in Gethsemane.**

Matthew, Mark and Luke make reference to the prayer Jesus prays in the garden regarding drinking of the cup.

*Matthew 26: 36 – 46 (In verses 39, 42 & 44 He prays the same prayer).*

*Mark 14:36*

*Luke 22:42*

## **What is in the Cup?**

All the wickedness of all the generations of mankind from Adam to the end of time are concentrated into that cup. He became sin; He took on the root nature.

In His death He became a million times more a sinner than any man. But not His own sin – He had no sin.

The concentrated sins of all mankind, every individual person’s sin, the most heinous, vile sin that has ever been committed, or ever will be committed was concentrated in that cup. He who had no sin, who never committed any sin, became sin.

## How this must have Affected Him.

Jesus recoiled from the sin not the pain.

A good example of the extremes of Christ's purity and the world's sin.

Let's use the extremes of temperature. Heat of the Equator and the cold of the North Pole however, in comparison to the heat of the sun it's nothing.

When we measure our righteousness against the worst sin, this we could say was the difference between the Equator and the North Pole. But when we look at Jesus, the contrast between His righteousness and sin it would be the difference between here and the Sun - there is no comparison. This is how it is with Christ.

We may feel tainted by hearing about some vile thing, how much more Jesus, pure and holy never knew sin.

At this point all the hordes of Hell would be released upon Jesus, as they would now have a legal right of entry into Christ's life because of our sin.

## Jesus Could only Die by Taking on our Sin.

Death only comes to sinners      *Genesis 2:17.*  
*"The sting of death is sin"      1 Corinthians 15:55-56.*

This was no token gesture, like God holding a bag of sin whilst dying on the cross. He willingly took my sin and my sorrow and made it His very own, and so allowed himself to be dragged down to Hades by the weight of our sin, with all the demons of Hell clinging to him like bees swarming over an intruder.

He really did, like the hymn puts it,

*"Bearing shame and scoffing rude' In my place condemned He stood,  
Sealed my pardon with His blood, Hallelujah, what a Saviour!!"*

This is the extent of God's love for His creation. How does this affect how I see my relationship with Him!

We must now turn our attention to what he did once he arrived in Hades

## The Nature of His Resurrection.

*1 Peter 1:3 – 9.*  
*Colossians 2: 13 – 15.*

As we have seen, because our sin became His, the sinless Son of God took our sin upon Himself and went to the cross, with all the demons of Hell attaching themselves to Him and when He died dragged Him into Hades. At this point Satan thought all his Christmases had come at once! He could not believe it was this easy. God had made a bad calculation! Satan now had the Christ in his hands, but we know it was Satan who was about to get the biggest wake up call he had ever had. Before we look at this, let's take a moment to see an overview.

## Where had Jesus Gone?

Hades – the region of the departed spirits of the lost, but included the dead saints until the ascension of Christ.

Hades – Greek: - *haidēs* – unseen. The place of departed souls is mentioned in the Gospels by Jesus as the place of the dead.

What did he do there?

*Acts 2: 27* Christ enters but does not stay – word grave in NIV is “*haidēs*” – Hades.

More information on Hades.

*Revelation 1:18* Christ holds the keys of Hades. “*I am the living one I was dead and behold I am alive for ever and ever. And I hold the keys of death and Hades*”.

*Revelation 6:8* Temporary destiny of the doomed.

*Revelation. 20:13* Gives up all who are in it for judgement.

*Revelation 20:14* Is itself thrown along with death into the lake of fire at the last judgment.

So then Christ comes into Hades with all the demons of Hell believing they have won the victory, however from this point on, the whole thing changes.

- Christ divests himself of sin.
- Disarms the power of darkness *Colossians 2:15* disarm – “*apekduoma*”i – meaning taken from two root words, strip & away. Takes away their authority – “*exousia*” – meaning power but also means freedom to control.
- Takes the keys of death and Hades from Satan.  
(from *Genesis 3*, when Satan took the authority God had given to man (*Genesis 2*), until this point Satan had the control of the keys of death and Hades, in *1 Samuel 28:4 – 19* we see the powers of darkness are able to control the dead. This is why the witch of Endor could call up Samuel).
- Now Christ has the keys and the authority *Matthew 28:1*. Brings the gospel to those who died and were in Hades *1 Peter 3:19 – 20*.
- Then He leads them out of Hades and into the Heavenly Kingdom *Ephesians 4:8 – 9*.  
*“When He ascended on high he led captives in His train and gave gifts to men. What does “He ascend” mean except that He also descended to the lower earthly regions.*

There are some physical earthly reactions to this spiritual happening. Matthew records it for us in *Matthew 27:51 – 53*.

### Now let’s Look at the Nature of His Resurrection.

The raising of Christ’s physical body was unique. Let’s compare it with that of Lazarus, (*John 11*). There is only one reference to the raising from the dead of Lazarus, yet the whole of the N.T. focuses on the resurrection of Christ. In physical terms, Lazarus being raised from the dead is the greater miracle since:

- Lazarus was in the tomb for 4 days whereas it was 3 days in the case of Jesus.
- Lazarus had begun to decompose, but Jesus did not (*Acts. 2:27*).

The difference was that Jesus came from the grave with no sin sticking to Him, but Lazarus was as much affected by sin after being raised from death, because at some point Lazarus died. Jesus was raised to bodily resurrection victoriously over sin, death, and Hades.

*(Colossians 2: 13-15). "Jesus rose from the dead triumphing over demons and made a public spectacle of them and disarmed them".*

### **How Then, did He do This?**

*Hebrews 5: 7-9.*

Word - From - meaning 'out from within (death)' to save him out from within death.

Once Jesus had died under such a weight of sin, our sin, Satan thought he had got him, yet Jesus divested himself of all the filth of sin because of his own sinless life and because of His reverent submission to the will of the Father. He was able to come from within our sin with no sin upon Him.

*Hebrews 5: 7* tell us that Jesus was heard and saved from within death.

*v. 7* – Jesus obtained the 'Title Deeds' of resurrection during his life of reverent submission.

*v. 8* – Jesus laid down his 'Son-ship' (*Phil. 2: 6*) and became obedient to the will of the Godhead (*Philippians. 2: 8*).

*v. 9* – because of his submission and obedience, he became the source of eternal life for all mankind.

All at once Satan realised he did not have (as he thought) Christ in his control, but in fact Christ had him. What a moment of dread that must have been for Satan, when as Christ divests Himself of the sin of all mankind, the glory of God explodes in Hades. That place of darkness and gloom in one millisecond is filled with the light of heaven. That blinding light that no demon or sinner can endure, pervades every dark recess and corner of Hades and there stands the pure spotless Son of God. The conqueror and victor over death, sin and the devil. He the Christ, now takes control, takes the keys of death and Hades, preaches the good news to those who had never heard and lead the saints of old out of Hades and into the heavenly kingdom of God.

His resurrection was miraculous because He rose from the dead with no sin on him and because we believe with our heart and confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord (*Romans 10:4*) and died with him in baptism we are free from the power of sin.

### **Sin.**

*Romans 5:12 "You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we are in – first sin, then death and no one exempt from either sin or death". (The Message).*

As we know, God went to great and extreme lengths to bring salvation to all mankind, so that He could have a divine relationship with man, through Jesus Christ *Colossians 1:15 – 23*.

*15 "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation".*

*16 "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him".*

*17 "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together".*

*18 "And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy".*

*19 "For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him".*

*20 "and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross".*

*21 "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour".*

- 22 “But now, He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation”.
- 23 “if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant”.

God's desire is to create for mankind a place where God and man can live together in harmony. This He did at the beginning of time as recorded in *Genesis 2: 4 – 25*.

This utopia was destroyed by man's disobedience to God and his willingness to believe Satan's lies to turn his back upon God and embrace the rebellion of Satan.

This action brought about: a separation between God and man a wall of hostility *Ephesians 2:14*  
We were alienated *Colossians 1:21*.  
It separated us far from God *Ephesians 2:13*.

But God had a plan to deal with this rebellion and speaks of it in *Genesis 3:15*.

And through this plan of redemption bring man back into that relationship with God himself, as it was in Eden at the beginning.

Christ's life on earth, death and resurrection has this one goal – **to bring all mankind back into this relationship with Himself.**

We know that He achieves this, as we can see in *Revelation 21:1 – 4*.

However, separated out from this, are all who chose to believe the lies of Satan and reject the truth of God.

All human beings are sinners.

We have inherited sin from our forbearers.

Firstly because we are Adam's offspring;

Secondly by the actions of our parents, who pass on their imperfections to us.

We are also sinners by our own actions toward God, but mostly our actions towards each other.

The nature of Adam is there from childhood and always shows itself as rebellion “I will do what I want”, even when parents say no! And even to our own harm! We see it clearly in children.

We must also realise that even though small children demonstrate the natural tendency towards disobedience, children are not accountable for sin until they reach an age when they know and understand not only what sin is, but also the maturity to make a right or wrong decision.

Children have an amazing ability to trust in God and relate to Him. It seems to me that although they are born with a natural inherent sinful nature, they have a Godliness about them that only fades as they grow. *As a little two year old said to her newborn brother “tell me what God sounds like as I have nearly forgot”*

See how Jesus relates to them and how He teaches us to understand that the Kingdom can only be accessed by childlike faith (*Luke 18:17*).

Sin separates but through Christ we have a relationship with the Father.

### What is Sin?

The word sin in the Old Testament is “*chata*” meaning to miss, to lead astray or “*chattat*” meaning to miss the road.

In the New Testament “*hamartia*” – meaning missing the mark from the word “*hamartano*” – to err, not share in the prize.

The meaning is constant through Scripture, when mankind does not meet the standard requirement then he has fallen short of God's standard.

How true then are the words of *Romans 3:23* "for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God".

We know that the actions, addictions and desires of our flesh cause us to miss the mark as *Galatians 5:19–21* tells us, and the flesh is motivated by the old man *Romans 6:6* For we know that our old self (man) was crucified with Christ.

**Sin then is the actions that don't meet the standard that God has set.**

### **Christ has Died to Forgive and Take Away Sin.**

*1 John 2:2* "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sin" (NIV)

Christ's death on the cross: -

Satisfied totally and completely the judgement of God.  
Settled forever.

Not just let off – example: -

Bank employee stole from bank and was caught. It's not like he was let off the crime, but like someone else paid back and more, the debt cancelled, nothing left owing, no debt to pay. Just as if it was never stolen, for us it's justified – just-as-if-we-had-never-sinned.

### **Christ Deals With Our Sin.**

We receive this by coming in to the light.

*1 John 1:5-7*

*Ephesians 5:6-21*

*Ephesians 5:* shows us the deeds of darkness.

*1 John* shows us how we deal with sin, it must be brought into God's light.

We come into God's light by agreeing with God about our sin.

*1 John 1:9* – "if we confess our sin".

Word confess "homologeho" means acknowledge.

Made up from the two root words –

"Homo" – same

"Logos" – word

To see our sin as God sees it. To say the same as God says.

We come to a place where we agree with God about our sin.

Satan has no claim on us here.

When this happens i.e. we confess our sin, He is faithful and just and will forgive us –

**This Brings Peace with God Perfect Reconciliation.**

*Colossians 1:19-20, Romans 5: 1-2, 1 Peter 2:24.*

This is the other side of the cross – peace *Isaiah 53:5.*

*"the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed".*

The Cross First Deals with Sin then Brings Peace.

In *Romans 5:11* "but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have now received reconciliation".

"*Kat-al-lag-ay*" - restoration William Tyndale 1525 could not find an English word so he put three words together: -

"At-one-meant" = atonement (new word).

Reconciliation and Peace go Together.

\*word peace Greek "*Irene*" to join perfect mending (broken bone).  
not just tranquillity - bone has now come to peace.

example – heavily armed soldiers – laying down arms first step.  
Bible peace would be then falling into each other's arms.

When Adam walked with God it was not a tested relationship.  
Jesus mended on the cross, creating an unbreakable relationship.

The cross is so powerful that nothing can break this peace and relationship with God. Satan has no power over this *Hebrews 10:11 – 16*.