

JESUS, THE PERFECT ANSWER

The greatest problem that man faces is sin. Sin enslaves, contaminates and scars those that become engulfed in it. Since “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23) it is a problem that plagues all men and women.

Certainly a loving God would provide an answer to such a plaguing problem. He has! The answer is Jesus Christ. In this article we shall give several reasons why Jesus is the perfect answer to the problem of sin.

Jesus Provides a Perfect Sacrifice for Sin

God has always demanded a blood sacrifice to atone for man’s sin. Under the Law of Moses, one day each year was set aside as the Day of Atonement. On this day the high priest bathed himself and put on white linen garments. He took three animals - two kids and one ram - to make atonement for himself and the people. He killed the ram and offered it to God as a sacrifice for himself and his family. One of the goats was presented alive before the Lord and the high priest laid hands on it, confessing over it the sins of the people. It was then sent away into the wilderness as a scapegoat, carrying the sins of the people. The other goat was slain and the high priest sprinkled its blood on the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place (which he entered only on the Day of Atonement) and on the altar. In this way the sins of the people were covered, but not forgiven. “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins” (Heb. 10:4).

Since the offering of animals only covered the sins of the people, it was necessary that a perfect offering be made. This perfect sacrifice was offered when Jesus died on the cross. “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building: neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sin, according to the riches of his grace” (Eph. 1:7).

God’s great love made this all possible. “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet preadventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:6-8).

Jesus Provides a Perfect Example

When Jesus ascended back to the Father, he left for man upon the earth a perfect example for him to follow. (1 Peter 2:21) He “was in all points tempted like as we are yet without sin. (Heb. 4:15) He was the only one to live a perfect life.

Jesus repeated again and again that while on earth he was subject to the Father’s will, “For I come down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.” (John 6:38) “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.” (Heb. 5:8-9).

We must follow Jesus’ example in following the will of God. We must submit our will to his if we want to be saved by Jesus’ sacrifice.

Jesus Provides a New Life

When we accept the love of God and the sacrifice of His son by submitting our will to his, we have a new life in Christ. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

In Christ we have been born anew to a life of love and service to God and man. In Christ we

have freedom from the guilt and anxiety of sin. In Christ we have a real life. William Barclay says,

“Until we accept Jesus and take Him as our Savior and enthrone Him as our King we cannot be said to live at all. The man who lives a Christless life exists, but he does not know what life is. Jesus is the one person who can make life worth living and is whose company death is only the prelude to still fuller life.”

Jesus Provides Perfect Hope

Our hope in Christ is that not only will we be freed from the guilt of sin, but also that our life will extend beyond the grave. The joy we will receive there is even greater than the joy we know in this life. “Hope is an essential element of our salvation and must never be omitted from our contemplation of what the Christian life means. Faith looks backward and upward; hope looks onward. Faith accepts, but hope expects. Faith is concerned with Him who promises; but hope is occupied with the good things promised. Faith appropriates; but hope anticipates.” (K. H. Griffith Thomas) Paul states, “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18).

Conclusion

It is through the sacrifice of Jesus and our obedience to His will that we have a new life in Christ, a life that contains the hope of eternal life.

—RCA

(The author is indebted to “The Foundations of Faith” for some of this material.)