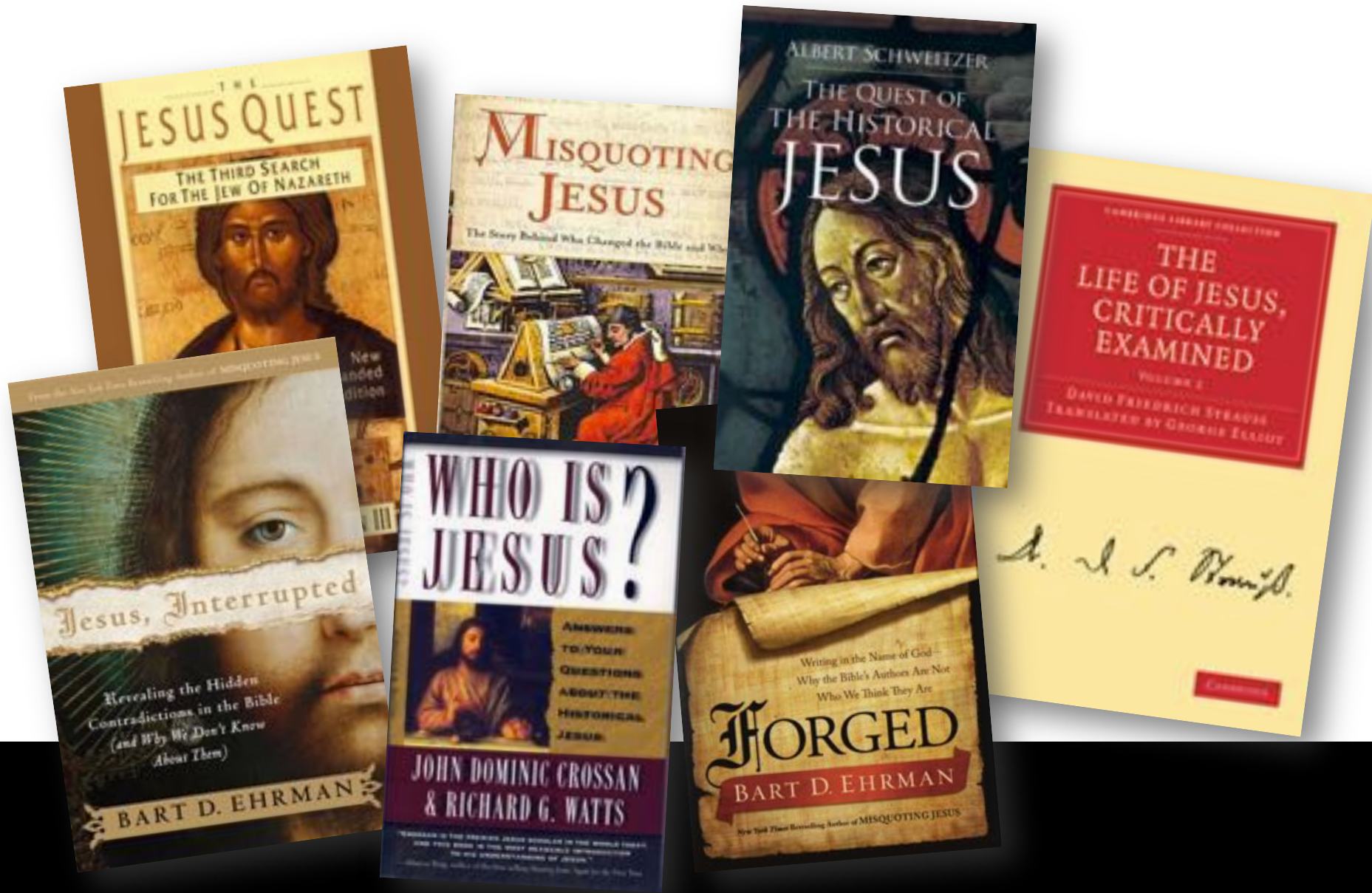


WHO IS JESUS?

# Modern Debate over Jesus' Identity

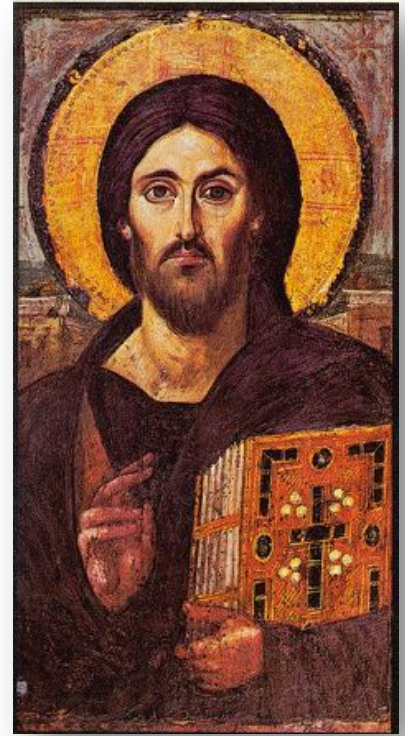


WHAT DID HE DO?

CHRISTOLOGY  
PERSON & WORK

# THE ROLES OF CHRIST

1. The Revelatory Role of Christ
2. The Rule of Christ
3. The Reconciling Work of Christ



# THE ATONEMENT

*“The atonement is the work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation.”*



Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 568.

# 1. THE CAUSE OF THE ATONEMENT

Why did the atonement happen?



John 3:16 – “For God so **loved** the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**God's Love was a cause for the atonement.**



Romans 3:25–26 – God put [Christ] forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's **righteousness**, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.  
<sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, **so that he might be just** and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

**God's Justice was a cause for the atonement.**

# 1. THE CAUSE OF THE ATONEMENT

*Why did the atonement happen?*

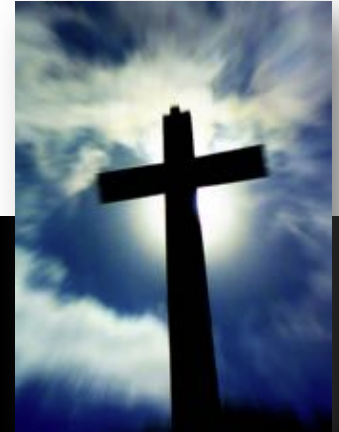
Both the *love* and the *justice* of God were the ultimate cause of the atonement.



## 2. THE NECESSITY OF THE ATONEMENT

On the one hand, it was not necessary to save any people at all.

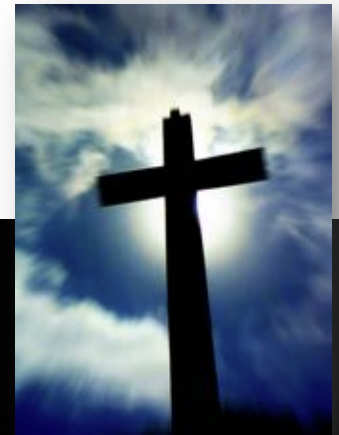
**2 Peter 2:4** – *God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment.*



## 2. THE NECESSITY OF THE ATONEMENT

But once God decided to save human beings, scripture tells us it was necessary.

**Matthew 26:39** – *And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”*



# WAS THERE ANOTHER WAY?



## LUKE 24:25-26

(on the road to Emmaus)

Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”<sup>25</sup> And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!”<sup>26</sup>

Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”<sup>27</sup>

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

## ROMANS 3:23-26

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. **This was to show God's righteousness**, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> **It was to show his righteousness** at the present time, **so that he might be just and the justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus.

## HEBREWS 2:17-18

Therefore **he had to be** made like his brothers in every respect, **so that he might become** a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, **to make propitiation** for the sins of the people.<sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

*There was no other way for God to save us than for Christ to die in our place.*



### 3. THE NATURE OF THE ATONEMENT

#### A. Christ's **obedience** for us (his *active* obedience)

By obeying the requirements of the Law in our place and by obeying the Father's will, He earned for us the righteousness that God requires.

We need this kind of righteousness in order to merit heaven. Simply having our guilt removed would not be enough.



## PHILIPPIANS 3:7–9

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, **not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.**

Paul knows that he needed more than simply a “clean slate” (sins forgiven). That would simply leave him where Adam and Eve began.

He knew that he needed positive moral righteousness that can only come from God Himself in Jesus Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-9



## 1 CORINTHIANS 1:30

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

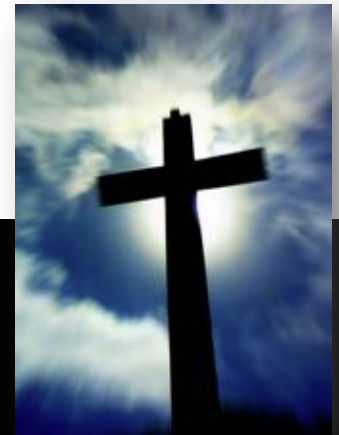
## ROMANS 5:19

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience [Christ's] the many will be made righteous.

### 3. THE NATURE OF THE ATONEMENT

- A. Christ's **obedience** for us (his *active* obedience)
- B. Christ's **sufferings** for us (his *passive* obedience)

*He took the penalty of our sins and as a result died for our sins.*



## ISAIAH 53:3

He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

### 3. THE NATURE OF THE ATONEMENT

- A. Christ's **obedience** for us (his *active* obedience)
- B. Christ's **sufferings** for us (his *passive* obedience)

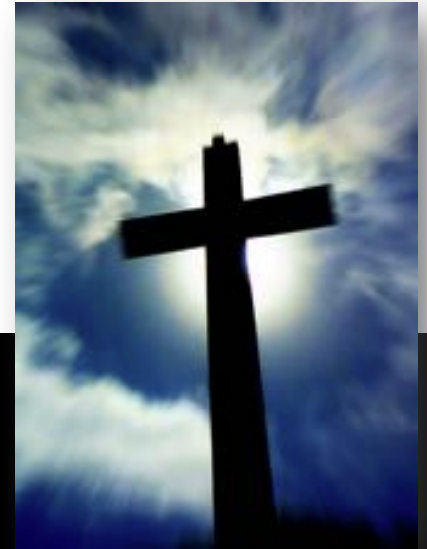
*He allowed himself to go through suffering so that he could pay for our sins.*

(Philippians 2:5-8)



# WHAT PAIN DID HE EXPERIENCE?

1. **Physical pain and death**
2. **The pain of bearing sin**
3. **Abandonment**
4. **Bearing the wrath of God**





# SUMMARY

1. We deserve to *die* as the penalty for sin.
2. We deserve to *bear God's wrath* against sin.
3. We are *separated* from God by our sins.
4. We are in *bondage to sin* and to the kingdom of Satan.

1. **Sacrifice**
2. **Propitiation**
3. **Reconciliation**
4. **Redemption**



# STAGES IN THE WORK OF CHRIST

## **The Humiliation**

1. Incarnation
2. Death

## **The Exaltation**

3. Resurrection
4. Ascension to Heaven
5. Second Coming

# CELEBRATING THE WORK OF CHRIST