

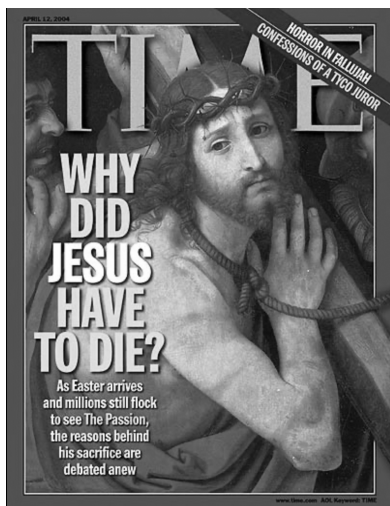
PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

June 5, 2022

Why Did Jesus Have to Die? (Romans 3:21-26)

I imagine that most of us who spend any time reading the Bible have a favorite passage of scripture. For me, it is Romans 3:21-26, because this passage reveals God's great mystery of redemption, and answers one of the most pivotal questions of the entire Bible: "Why did Jesus have to die?"

²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom 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. ²⁶It 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. (Romans 3:22-26, ESV)



The question of the need for Jesus' death was the subject of a Time Magazine cover story from April 12, 2004. I have never read this article (or been able to find a copy online), but I can know the answer without ever opening the magazine, because Paul explains it very clearly in the passage above.

Perhaps we sometimes allow ourselves to think that certainly God could have come up with a different way. However,



"Be exalted, O Lord, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your Power"

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bible class topics

We welcome Tyler
Binkley as our guest
speaker today!

THE LOWER I BOW, THE HIGHER I RISE
TO THE HEIGHTS OF THE HEAVENS ABOVE
AS I BOW AT HIS FEET
I AM MOVIN' ON UP
TRANSPORTED BY MERCY AND LOVE
COME, HUMBLE YOUR SPIRIT! BOW
DOWN TO THE KING!
AND SOAR TO THE SUMMIT OF GRACE.
BOW LOW AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS,
AND ASCEND!
COME DOWN TO THE MOST HIGH PLACE!

Paul presents here how God in his infinite wisdom overcame what to most would seem like an impossible dilemma.

If our transgressions truly separate us from God (v. 23), then how could God freely give salvation (v. 24) without trivializing sin? If God simply forgave us of our failings, without a payment being made, then sin would have no weight. The only way was to offer *Himself, through His Son*, as the sacrifice for our sins (v. 25). With this plan, God ensured that **justice** was served and that salvation could be given to mankind as a free gift through His grace (vv. 24 & 26)

However, this gift is only available to those who have faith in the one who made the payment for us (vv. 22, 25-26). "Faith in Jesus Christ" specifies the necessary **object** of our faith, Jesus Christ, and indicates that one has dedicated their life to following the will of God and His Son.

Prayer:

Lord, we recognize you as being the author of our salvation through the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ. We praise you for the free gift of grace that you pour out on all those who have faith in your Son. Please help us to fully understand the significance of His payment, and to never take it for granted. Please give us the courage to take the good news about your Son to a lost and dying world. In your Son's most holy name, Amen.

- Timothy Agee

PRAYER LIST

- **Isabel Johnson** got a good report from her 100 day lab results, and asks for prayers for strength as she begins making up school work
- **Nick Phifer** had a stem cell transplant to treat his leukemia
- **Faye Waller** fell at home and broke her arm
- **Doug Demonbreun** has been suffering from cellulitis
- **Patricia Stroud** has been struggling with the effects of shingles
- Continue to pray for **families in Uvalde, TX, Delores Coleman, Ann Reed, Rosemary Douglas, Kristine Garrett, John Hayes, the Krantz family, Gaynell Walker, Rebecca Brown, and Jim Sims**

SERVING TODAY (June 5, 2022)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Read: J. Walker
Prayer: D. Billingsley

WORSHIP

Read: M. Reed
Wait On Table: E. Walker
Serve: J. Demonbreun, J. Gupton
Prayer: L. Gregory