

EASTER

EXPLAINED

March 12, 2023 | Steve Norby

Perspective

The crucifixion can be a STUMBLING block & seem FOOLISH. 1 Corinthians 1:23

Why was Jesus Crucified?

I. Sin's Penalty

The crucifixion PAID the PENALTY for sin. 1 John 2:2, Romans 3:25a

- Sacrifices & the laws concerning them were a SHADOW of the crucifixion of Jesus. Hebrews 10:1-4
- Jesus was the PERFECT & FINAL sacrifice for all sins.
1 Peter 1:18-20, 1 Corinthians 15:22

II. Love Demonstrated

The crucifixion DEMONSTRATED God's love. Romans 5:6-8, Ephesians 5:1-2, John 15:13

Question: Have you ever wondered if God loves you? You only need to LOOK to the cross.

III. Death Conquered

The crucifixion CONQUERED death. Revelation 1:18, 2 Timothy 1:9-10, Revelation 21:4

Faith Builder Exercise: PROBABILITY that one person could fulfill 15 key Old Testament PROPHECIES concerning the Messiah.

- Odds of these all happening by chance are 1 over 10 followed by 62 zeros.
- It can be said with great CONFIDENCE that Jesus has conquered death.

IV. Satan Vanquished

The crucifixion VANQUISHED the devil's work.

John 12:31-33, 1 John 3:8b, Hebrews 2:14-15

Application

What does the crucifixion mean for me?

- Through the crucifixion, God PROVIDES a PATH for forgiveness from sin, for reconciliation with Him & for freedom from death. The crucifixion demonstrates God's love for humanity in general & specifically His love for you.

THE BIG 3

THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

For Further Discussion: Why was Jesus Crucified?

1. How does God's holy nature factor into the need for sin to be atoned for? When people think God should just accept them as sinful, what is that asking God to do?
2. What does it mean to you that Jesus paid the penalty for sin?
3. What is the balance between knowing your sin put Jesus on the cross versus minimizing sin & thinking I can do something wrong since it's covered by Jesus' atoning death? How does transformation & the Holy Spirit factor into life after conversion?
4. Do you or someone you know struggle to believe that God loves you? How does God demonstrate His love for you? Thinking about last week's message on justice, righting the wrongs of this world, how do justice & love go hand in hand? How do you see these two play out in the crucifixion of Jesus?
5. Do you think death & the fear of death haunt most people? How do you see people coping with death? Why is it so important that by the crucifixion Jesus has destroyed death?
6. What does it mean that Satan has been vanquished, defeated thoroughly?
7. What gives Satan ground, a foothold, to operate in the lives of people?

BAPTISM CLASS

On Sunday, March 19 at 11 a.m., Pastor Ryan will be leading a baptism class in Room 220. Pastor Nathan will be leading a class for kids (K-5th grade) in Room 210 at the same time. We'll celebrate the baptisms during the morning services on Sunday, April 16. Sign-up at the Info Center or call the church office at 605-692-6671.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Prayer Stations - Come & Go

Wednesday, April 5 - 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 6 - 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Friday, April 7 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Communion

Thursday, April 6 - Come & Go, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service of Shadows

Friday, April 7 - 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.