

WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL
Fundamentals of the Faith
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LESSON #36 — JESUS IS OUR BEST FRIEND: HIS DEATH (PART 2)

We're looking at some reasons the Christian can know that Jesus is our best friend. We can know that by His life upon this earth, by His humiliation and suffering for us, and by His death and shed blood on the behalf of each one of us. We're thankful that you could be with us. We're thankful that we can continue to look into this wonderful and rich topic that hopefully will motivate us, encourage us, strengthen us, to live godly lives for the Lord who died for us.

Now let's continue on this theme, that we can know that Jesus is our best friend, by His death for us. And we want to look now at the book of Hebrews, the seventh chapter, verses 26 and 27. Hebrews chapter 7, verse 26 and verse 27. "For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself." Talking about the Christian, who has a great high priest. Jesus, of course, is who he is talking about who was holy, set apart from sin. Harmless, that is, innocent. He was undefiled. He was pure. He was the perfect one, who was the perfect one to offer as the sacrifice for sins.

And notice the contrast that the Hebrew writer makes between those Old Testament high priests, and Jesus, as our great and merciful high priest. They needed to first make sacrifices for their own sins, and then for the sins of the people. But that was not needed in Jesus' case because He had no sin. So He didn't have to offer a sacrifice first, for His sins. Instead, he offered Himself. He made Himself an offering, a sacrifice, for our sins. And He did that once for all, never to be repeated again. There was no need to repeat His sacrifice, as the need existed in the Old Testament, with their sacrifices of the bodies and blood of animals. Jesus offered Himself up once for all, showing how great a friend he is to you and me.

Then in 1 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 7. 1 Corinthians 5, verse 7. This is a very short but powerful and beautiful passage of Scripture. He says, "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us." There God through Paul is telling us, is describing Jesus as our Passover. For us to understand and appreciate what he's saying in this verse, we need to bring our minds back to the Old Testament times, particularly to the time when the Passover was instituted. You'll remember that God's people, Israel, were in bondage in Egypt. And God was working a number of miracles to convince Pharaoh to let God's people go back to the land of Canaan, or go to the land of Canaan, that God had promised for them. And the last miracle that God was going The work was that He was going to send an angel to destroy the firstborn of every house, animals and children. And God said to the people of Israel, "You take a perfect, spotless lamb. And you sacrifice that lamb. And you take the blood of the Lamb, and you apply the blood around the lintel of the doorpost. And when the angel comes through to destroy the firstborn of every house, he will pass over the house where he sees the blood, and

will not take the firstborn of those houses.” So that blood enabled the people of Israel to escape the death of the firstborn. Well, Paul is saying with that background in mind: Christ is our Passover. And He was sacrificed for us. And if we're cleansed by His blood, not the blood of a perfect lamb, but the blood of the Lamb of God, then we're going to miss eternal death, separation from God. What a great gift God has given us in the sacrifice of His Son, and He is our Passover. If his blood cleanses our souls, we will not have to worry about eternal death, eternal separation from God. We'll have everlasting life in Heaven with Him, and His beloved Son, Jesus, the Christ.

And then one final passage on this subject found in 1 Peter chapter 2, verse 24. 1 Peter chapter 2, verse 24. Towards the end of this chapter, we read these words, "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed." Jesus, Himself, bore our sins, in His own body, on the tree, a clear reference to His death on the cross of Calvary for you and me. But He was willing to take our sins and to bear those sins in His own body, and to die that cruel death on the cross. That we might live for righteousness, and that we, through His stripes, through His lashes that He suffered in that scourging, and through His death on the cross, might receive the spiritual healing that we need for our souls.

These passages should fill our hearts and minds with thanksgiving, and with joy, as we think about the immense love of the Father, and His Son, Jesus. Which was poured out for us in the death of His Son, upon the cross, for our sins, that we might be forgiven, redeemed, purchased back from our slavery to sin. To get the full effect of those verses, we'd like to now briefly summarize what we've seen in these passages on this subject.

First of all, John 15, verse 13, Jesus said, “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” And that's exactly what Jesus did. He died for His friends, and He showed His friendship for us in that death.

In Romans chapter 5, verses 6 through 8, God talks about the time when His love was demonstrated so beautifully for us, in that Christ died for us. While we were without strength, without power, to save ourselves, while we were ungodly, and while we were sinners, Christ died for us. What a beautiful thought that is.

And then in the book of John, again, in chapter 10, verse 11, and verse 15. Jesus described Himself as the Good Shepherd who gives His life for His sheep. What a wonderful picture that is, Jesus is our shepherd who died to protect us, to defend us, to give us the Hope of everlasting life.

And John also in the first chapter and verse 29, Jesus is described as that sacrificial lamb, the one who sacrificed Himself that he might take away the sin of the world.

Then in the book of Hebrews, Hebrews chapter 2, verse 9, He tasted death for every man. He experienced death for each one of us, showing His friendship.

Then in 1 Timothy chapter 2, verse 6, He gave Himself a ransom for all, paid the price, to buy us back from our captivity to sin, and to unrighteousness.

Then in the book of Galatians, chapter 1, verse 4, Jesus gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil world. And Galatians chapter 2, verse 20, He loved us, and gave Himself for us. Paul could keep that in his mind, and you and I can do the same. Remember, Jesus loved us, and gave Himself for us.

Then in Hebrews chapter 7, verse 26, and 27, Jesus is our high priest. He's wholly harmless, that is innocent, he's separated from His sin, and He offered up Himself as that once for all sacrifice for sins.

Then in 1 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 7, Jesus, our Passover, is sacrificed for us that we might have eternal life in Heaven.

And in 1 Peter chapter 2, verse 24, He bore our sins in His own body, so that through His stripes, we might have the spiritual healing that we need so badly.

The death of Christ: what a moving subject, one that out of move us, to show our love for Him by our willingness to sacrifice self, and to live obediently to His commands.