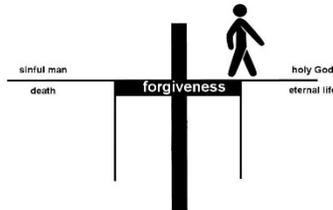


SALVATION

Why is Jesus dying on a cross so important to Christians?

One word that Christians use to explain this is atonement (at-one-ment). Christians believe that Jesus death on the cross makes them at one with a holy God. The Bible says, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. While we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son." (Romans 5.8&10)



Many Christians explain this belief using pictures like this. They believe that everyone has disobeyed God and done things wrong (sinned). This sin separates people from God, who is holy and pure. They believe that, because Jesus died on the cross, those who believe in him can know God's forgiveness. They can live in relationship with him and one day go to be with him in heaven.

Another word to explain this belief is redemption (paying a debt). Christians believe that Jesus death on the cross paid a debt that they could not repay. It can be explained like this.

	<p>Imagine that there was a judge.</p>
<p>A case is brought before him. As he hears the evidence, the man is clearly guilty. The judge has no choice about the verdict he must give.</p>	
	<p>Except ... as the judge sees the man's remorse and desperate situation he feels really, really sorry for him. What will he do? Guilty! The judge declares the man guilty and gives him the stiffest fine the law allows.</p>
<p>Immediately the Judge leaves the courtroom and pays the fine in full from his own pocket.</p>	

	<p>Christians believe that God himself will one day judge everyone for what they have done.</p>
<p>The Bible says that "all have sinned." It says everyone has disobeyed God and messed up.</p>	
	<p>The Bible also says that "God so loved the people of the world. " Although people are guilty, God feels deep compassion - even for the very worst offender.</p>
<p>Money The Bible goes on to say that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Many Christians believe that through faith in Jesus death on the cross their debt to God has been paid in full. They are forgiven.</p>	

How is this belief expressed?

Songs

The greatest day in history,
 Death is beaten, you have rescued me
 Sing it out Jesus is alive
 The empty cross, the empty grave
 Life eternal, you have won the day
 Shout it out Jesus is alive - he's alive!
 Oh happy day, happy day
 You washed my sin away
 Oh happy day, happy day
 I'll never be the same
 Forever I am changed!

(The Greatest Day in History - by Tim Hughes, www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVxS3xyGBOQ)

Communion

See the video "Communion in Church" (www.request.org.uk)

Holy Thursday & Good Friday

See the videos about "Holy Thursday" & "Good Friday" (www.request.org.uk)