

Jesus Paid Our Debt

Many people ask, “why is Jesus relevant to us today?” after all he lived and died 2000 years ago. How on earth can he still have any significance today?

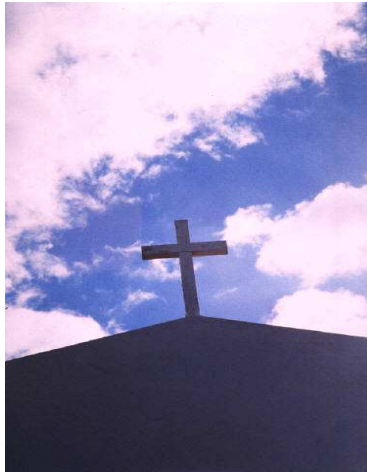
The reason why Jesus is as relevant today as 2000 years ago is because what he achieved on the cross has freed us from the slavery and consequences of wrongdoing that we commit. As we have already looked at, the reason we were created was to have a relationship with God. We were created for His special purposes. The bible says that the wrong things that we do and the selfish ways that we live, separate us from God and place us under his judgement and punishment. Just as we punish our own children when they rebel against us and do something wrong, so the God who created us, punishes us for the rebellion that we commit against Him. That punishment is spiritual death now and everlasting punishment in hell when we die.

No parent would punish a child without the possibility of that child being restored. True love has at its core both the desire for perfect justice but also the desire for perfect mercy. So Jesus came into the world and died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin and to fulfil perfect justice. As Jesus hung on the cross all our sin, guilt, shame entered into his body and as Jesus breathed his last he cried, **“It is finished”** In this single statement of Jesus we see that our sin has been paid for, our guilt has been taken away and the barrier of sin and rebellion between us and God has been removed once and for all. Jesus took the full weight of our punishment of sin upon himself, he suffered our humiliation and died our death and in this one act satisfied God’s desire for justice thus making us free people. Jesus was a perfect sacrifice because he never sinned and what he did he did once and for all, satisfying fully the justice of God in regard to sin.

Jesus opened up the Way back to God

This freedom that Jesus has bought for us has freed us from our sin, made us morally and spiritually clean in the eyes of God and has opened up the possibility for us once again to experience a relationship with the God who made us. This idea of being put right through faith in Jesus is what the bible calls **“justification by faith”** Jesus’ death justifies us in the eyes of God and places us in a restored position before our Maker in heaven. Through faith in Jesus we receive this forgiveness of our sin, cleansing of our guilt and restoration of the true purpose to why we were created. The death of Jesus on the cross has forever repaired our relationship with God. Now we can experience Him and enter into His presence holy, pure and faultless in His sight. This condition is not ours by right, but it is a sharing in the spiritual state of Jesus and His standing before our heavenly Father. The bible calls this experience of a new relationship with God, as being **“Born Again.”**

Where we were once spiritual dead to God, deaf and blind to His presence, now we can experience His power, presence and reality guiding and shaping our lives. Like any relationship the more time we spend with God in prayer, worship and in reading His word the more He reveals Himself to us and we get to know Him better. **Jesus is the only way to a relationship with God** because only Jesus has paid for our sin, died in our place and taken away the offending barrier between us and God. Only Jesus is the one who has satisfied once and for all, the full requirements of God’s justice in regard to sin. Salvation comes through faith in Jesus and claiming what he has done on the cross. No amount of good works, or religious duties can earn for you, what you can freely receive through faith in Jesus. We are saved **by grace** God’s undeserved favour **through faith alone** (In Christ)



Famous Quote

All heaven is interested in the Cross of Christ, all hell terribly afraid of it, while men are the only beings who more or less ignore its meaning to their eternal damnation. Get alone with Jesus and either tell Him that you do not want sin to die out in you – or else tell him that at all costs you want to be identified with His death.

Today Jesus is being dispatched as the Figurehead of a Religion, a mere example. He is that, but He is infinitely more; He is salvation itself, he is the Gospel of the living God and in Him eternal hope and the destiny of humanity meet.

Oswald Chambers

Jesus secured for us eternal life

The bible says even more wonderful things about Jesus. It says that after he died on the cross, his body was taken down and put into an air tight tomb guarded by Roman soldiers. On the third day some women came to anoint the body as was their tradition and found that the body was no longer there. Jesus had raised physically from the dead and he appeared to well over 500 people. He talked with them and ate with them. He also promised that through his resurrection we would have the promise of eternal life. This Eternal life means two things:-

Firstly – Fullness of life now

When we become a Christian, God gives us his presence and power so that we can fully live our lives for him. This presence of God that fills our lives is called the Holy Spirit. He comes to live within us so that we can become better people and experience real intimacy with God. This is called in the bible **regeneration**. This word means that we are regenerated from death – to life; from slavery to sin – to freedom of will, regenerated morally and spiritually to be a new creation which has infinite possibilities to experience God’s love and grace in our lives. This regeneration is only possible because Jesus died on that cross and rose to new life three days later. It is the Holy Spirit that develops within us a real quality of life.

He enables us to reach our full potential as people developing our gifts and abilities to the level that God intended for us to have in the first place. He develops our character, changing the bad habits, the hurts, the rough edges and gives us a character which is more like Jesus’. This results in our relationship with both ourselves and with other people getting better. **Secondly – Everlasting Life when we die:-** Revelation 21 makes it clear that when Jesus **Comes Again** there will be a making of everything new. This will result in a physical resurrection of each one of us. We will receive a new body which will not age, get sick, or be damaged. We will live for ever in the presence of God in perfect happiness, fulfilment, peace, joy, excitement. There will no longer be any more death, suffering, sickness or pain for the old order of corrupt society and man will be done away with. We will be God’s children and He will be our visible, eternal Father.