



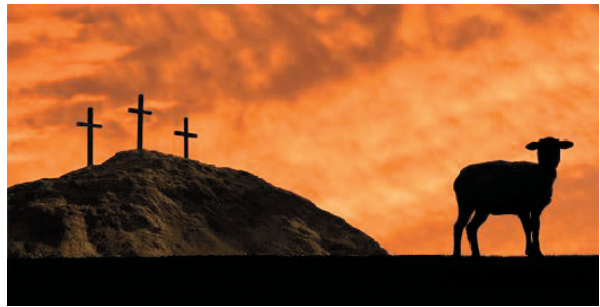
An undenominational publication
devoted to the teachings of Jesus and His
apostles and dedicated to those who seek
the truth.

Volume 10, Number 3
May/June 2014

BEHOLD THE LAMB

As the Israelites prepared to leave slavery in Egypt God instructed them concerning the feast of Passover. They were to select a male lamb, one year old, without defect, and kill it on the fourteenth day of the month. The meat was to be eaten with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. The blood was to be applied to the sides and tops of their door posts. At midnight the Lord would pass through the land to strike down the firstborn of men and animals in every house that did not apply the lamb's blood to the doorposts. God said: *"The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt"* (Exodus 12:1-13).

When Jesus came into our world He was announced as *"the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"* (John 1:29). He gave His



life that others might live. His blood, applied by faith to the door posts of human hearts, preserves us today from spiritual death -- both now and through all eternity. He is our "Passover lamb" (1 Corinthians 5:17)

Those who give their lives to Jesus are *"redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect"* (1 Peter 1:19).

Have you taken the necessary steps to protect yourself and your loved ones from the deadly consequences of sin? Nothing can wash away your sin but the blood of Jesus.

— David Tarbet, Evangelism Minister
Church of Christ, New Milford, Connecticut



HE PAID THE PRICE FOR SIN

“You were bought at a price” (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Just the other day I found myself in a conversation with a fellow Christian. He spoke of how he is moved inwardly, at times to the point of tears, as he ponders the price Jesus paid to enable him to be forgiven.

There is a song that is often sung just before partaking of the Lord’s Supper during worship on Sunday. It begins with these words, “Why did my Savior come to earth, and to the humble go? Why did He choose a lowly birth?” The song reminds us of the reason Jesus died on the cross, willingly paying the price needed to turn God’s wrath away from you and from me.

Why the wrath? Mankind has a problem which is called sin. (Romans 3:23) Left unresolved, that sin leads to spiritual death (Romans 6:23) and a separation from God. (Isaiah 59:1-2) But God had a plan “before the creation of the world” that would make it possible for man’s sin problem to be resolved; that is, if men and women want to resolve it (Ephesians 1:4).

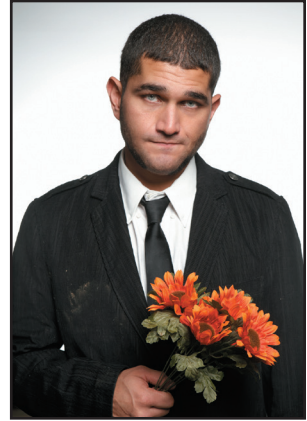
He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed (1 Peter 2:24).

The price paid was enormous! He bought us “with His own blood” (Acts 20:28). God loved us so much “that He gave His one and only Son” (John 3:16) to be the “atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2). Jesus “offered Himself unblemished to God” (Hebrews 9:14). He went to the cross of Calvary to pay the ransom needed through death (Hebrews 9:15). By His blood shed on the cross He made His healing power available to mankind. Why did my Savior come to earth? Because He was the only one able to pay the price. He truly does love us so.

— Dennis Godin, Minister
Church of Christ, Biddeford, Maine

HE DIED TO RECONCILE US TO GOD

Anyone who has ever fought with a spouse or loved one knows how unproductive it would be to pretend the rift didn't happen or blame it on circumstances ... or worse yet—the other person! Yet, that is what we often do in our relationships with God. We all sin and have all earned death. The need to mend the damage has eternal ramifications. We must be reconciled to God.



In the case of our earthly relationships, the words, “I’m sorry,” fall short as does a gift of flowers or chocolates. Real reconciliation cannot happen until the offended party sees true sorrow expressed through love in a changed life. So how does Jesus, the perfect man but also God Himself, dying on a cross reconcile us to God?

It does this by opening access to the possibility of reconciliation. “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus’ death, then, was the perfect gift offered with the power to reconcile us to God. Though He was the one offended, our sins are punished in His body hanging on a tree. His blood washes away our offenses.

But, this is only the opportunity opened for us to be reconciled. This is the equivalent of the offended loved one stating that she is willing to talk, that there is a softening of the heart through love that has opened a gateway for reconciliation. Just as wishing our spouse, whom we know is capable of forgiving us, would do so is not the same thing as being reconciled. Neither is wishing we could go to heaven. Yet, many, after uttering a prayer for forgiveness believe themselves reconciled with God. Try calling your wife and telling her that everything’s now OK because you wished hard enough for it to be so!

So, now that we, who were powerless to be reconciled to God we had hurt by our sins, has offered us the opportunity to be reconciled through the cross, we must die to sin and our old selves with Jesus through baptism, making a pledge of a clean conscience to Him, and rise to walk in new life. By this, we obey the gospel and allow God to see true sorrow expressed through love in a changed life.

— Douglas Kashorek, Minister
Church of Christ, Plattsburg, New York

THE DAY CHRIST DIED

From the sixth hour
until the ninth hour
darkness came over
all the land. About the
ninth hour

Jesus cried out in a
loud voice, *“Eloi, Eloi,
lama sabachthani”*
— which means, *“My
God, my God, why have
you forsaken me?”*



When some of those standing there heard this, they said, *“He’s calling
Elijah.”*

Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He lifted it with wine
vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest
said, *“Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”*

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His
spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to
bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open
and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.
They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus resurrection they went
into the holy city and appeared to many people.

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw
the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified and
exclaimed, *“Surely He was the Son of God!”*

Matthew 27:45-54

New International Version (1984)



MERCY & JUSTICE MEET AT THE CROSS

*“This is how God showed His love among us:
He sent His one and only Son into the world that
we might live through Him. . . . He sent His Son
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins”*

(1 John 4:9-10)

Time after time we have disappointed our Creator. He wants us to reflect His image, to be pure in heart, innocent in speech, holy in living, obedient to His will and always reflecting His perfect nature. We have blurred His image in our lives. All of us have sinned; each of us has fallen far short of the glory of God.

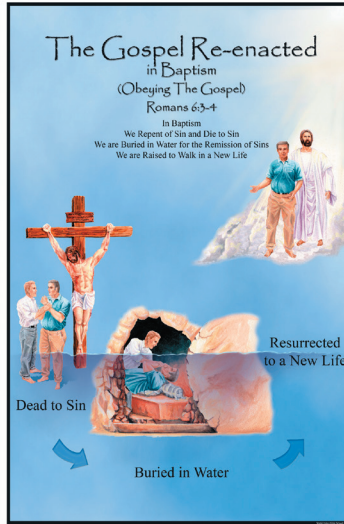
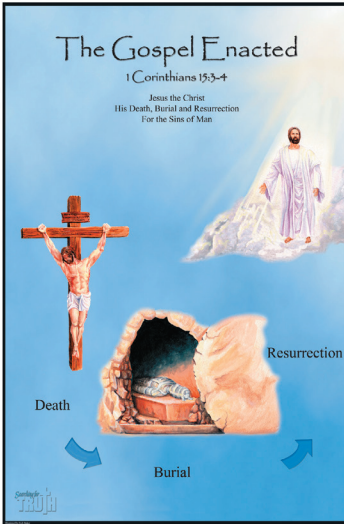
In our American judicial system we understand the importance of justice being satisfied. We would not respect a judge who ignored crimes committed and allowed the criminal to go free without wrongs being rectified and penalties being imposed on the guilty. Such a judge would lose his right to sit on the bench; he would be dismissed from the judicial system. In a similar way, in order for God to be just and holy He cannot ignore the fact that we have sinned. There are consequences for our disobedience. Sin separates us from God. The result is that we forfeit the right to live. “The soul who sins is the one who will die” (Ezekiel 18:20). God’s love for us continues but forgiveness can be granted only if justice is met. We are not good enough to pay for our sins. But someone must suffer the consequences for our sins or God cannot be a Forgiving God and a Holy God at the same time.

Jesus, the sinless Son of God, has stepped in to pay a debt He did not owe. “At just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8).

God was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice in order to bring mercy and justice together! He sent His one and only Son to take our place, forfeit His own life, and achieve what we could never achieve by ourselves: forgiveness of sins and the promise of life everlasting. How much God truly loves us!

— David Tarbet, Evangelism Minister
Church of Christ, New Milford, Connecticut

HAVE YOU DIED WITH CHRIST?



Many good people do not see a purpose in baptism. Read the words of Paul in Romans 6:3-4: **“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with**

Him through baptism into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” The Bible says baptism puts one “into Christ.” This same truth is declared in Galatians 3:27.

When a person is baptized (immersed in water), three things happen:

- 1. One dies with Christ in likeness of his death (Romans 6:3).** This is an area often ignored. If one’s heart is not “crucified with Christ” immersion cannot put one “into Christ” and bring about forgiveness. One must die to himself, die to his old way of life and die to his sinful desires.
- 2. One is “buried” with Christ (Romans 6:4).** In baptism one leaves the sinful self behind. All the writers of the New Testament teach baptism is submersion in water. New Testament baptism requires “much water” (John 3:23).
- 3. One is “raised” to a new life (Romans 6:4).** When one is baptized in the likeness of His death, he will be raised in the likeness of His resurrection! The purpose of immersion is to provide “newness of life.” Those “in” Christ are a “new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17). “Newness of life” can be yours!

If you have not been immersed to have your sins washed away, please let us know if we can assist you in your obedience to Christ.

— Timothy Tarbet, Pulpit Minister
Church of Christ, New Milford, Connecticut



**You Are Invited To Attend the
Undenominational Services of
CHURCHES OF CHRIST
This Sunday**

**NEW MILFORD, CT
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

129 Litchfield Rd
New Milford, CT 06776
(2 miles North of Hospital)
Telephone: 860-355-0489
Tim Tabet, Minister
10 AM Bible Classes
11 AM, 6:30 PM Worship

**CASTLETON, VT
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

37 Castleton Meadows
Castleton, VT 05735
Telephone: 802-683-4970
Kirk Israel, Minister
10 AM Bible Classes
11 AM Worship

**COVENTRY, RI
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

2435 Nooseneck Hill Rd,
Building C Unit 3,
Coventry, RI 02816
Telephone: 401-397-9700
Gary Babcock, Minister
9:30 AM Bible Classes
10:30 AM Worship

**Find the CHURCH OF CHRIST
in Your Community**

<http://www.churchzip.org>

Request Any 2 Free Copies!
Important Booklets
About Christ

- The Cross of Christ**

- The Message of the New Testament**

- Is Baptism Necessary?**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Send requests/questions to:

CHRIST FOR TODAY

P.O. Box 755

New Milford, CT 06776

Call 860-355-0489

E-mail: christfortoday@gmail.com

CHRIST FOR TODAY

David Tarbet, Editor

New Milford Church of Christ

129 Litchfield Road (Route 202)

(2 miles North of New Milford Hospital)

P.O. Box 755

New Milford, Connecticut 06776

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

<http://christfortoday.org>

<http://nmchurchofchrist.org>

NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Dallas, Texas

Permit 2829