

**Christ is the only Religious Teacher who has  
Dealt Radically with Human Wickedness:  
Part II**

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*What is the Christian understanding of Man's sin and wickedness, and the solution?*

The Christian answer is: Christianity points out man's sin-problem, and the solution from his sins and wickedness. In other religions there is no acknowledgement of sin and wickedness. They stress, that man needs a guide, or some other kind of help to teach you how to live and/or how to die. But in these other religions there is no emphasis on the need for salvation from sin, guilt, and shame. Man's problem is also moral, and, therefore, he needs a solution.

Why does man need salvation? Paul says with finality (Rom. 1:18), "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness of men who hold the truth in wickedness . . ." Men are under God's wrath—that's why they need salvation from sin.

Paul introduces the first key word of the Christian vocabulary: **guilt**. Paul discusses guilt in Romans 1:18--3:20. Then, in Romans 3:21-4:25, he discussed the second key Christian word: **substitution**, referring to Christ's substitutionary death for man's sin.

People of other religions have no concept whatever of the Christian significance of these **two** words. Man needs salvation because he is under God's wrath. Man needs salvation because he is guilty of sinning.

There are other questions that the unsaved person, without the Bible, asks. They have been asked in every generation, though perhaps never shouted louder than in our generation: ***If God made me, why am I now under His wrath? If God made me as I am, how can He consider me guilty? Is He not unjust in doing so? Where does evil come from?***

These are important questions, and only the Bible answers them. These questions take us right back to the Bible's teaching about the historic Fall. If one removes the record of the historic Fall in Genesis; then, man will lose **all contact** with the Christian message. Without that answer to the origin of evil, the books of Genesis and Romans would have no meaning, and the death of Christ would have no meaning. Why should God hold us under His wrath if He made us the way we are? If God had made us all four feet tall, would He judge us for not being six feet tall? **Paul answered that question:** "Because that which may be known of God is manifested in them [all mankind], for God hath shown it unto them" (Rom. 1:19).

For God has shown *evidence of His creation* unto them: *First* of them all is, through the '**conscience**' of all man (Rom. 2:15). Every one has a conscience. Take a good look at yourself. Don't you have a conscience? Don't you know very well that you are not the person you should be? Paul does not allow distractions by endless arguments. He keeps it on the level of the individual, as a significant person made in the image of God. (He says to the unbeliever, even though you have never seen a Bible, you have a conscience, and you have violated it).

*Second*, not only does the nonbeliever have a conscience, he should know that there is a God simply by observing the amazing **creation** all around him. He is not living in a dark cave. The Bible emphasizes many times that creation is a testimony of God: [“The heavens declare the glory of God . . . Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night shows knowledge” (Psalm 19:1-2)]. Notice, it is **knowledge** that creation reveals. “There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard” (Psalm 19:3). There is one voice that is heard wherever humans live, with or without the Bible. It is the voice of creation. And it is speaking to man, the creature, who rebels against the Creator, even while he is still a rational creature.

Luke said: “Nevertheless, God has not left Himself without witness . . .” (Acts 14:17). Creation is presented as the present good providence of God. And Jesus, in the New Testament spoke of the rain falling on the just and on the unjust (Matt. 5:45; Acts 14:17).

Man, though fallen, is still a moral, and a rational being. He is not dehumanized. He still has a “conscience” (Romans 1:19), and he can still appreciate the wonder of creation all around him (Romans 1:20). Man still bears the image of God. Man can’t put himself at the center of the universe and expect to find meaning. Rather, God must be kept at the center of His universe, and then, man will find meaning in life through a right relationship with Him.

## **Conclusion:**

Among the religions of the world, Christianity alone, claims and points out the sin-problem in the human heart. Christianities claim that the infinite-personal living God became uniquely, and fully human in Jesus Christ, and therefore knows firsthand, what is; its pollution, and its pain and its penalty. Christ knew the depths of human despair, and depravity, rejection, loneliness, poverty, bereavement, torture, imprisonment, and spiritual separation, and wickedness.

The death of Christ was *qualitatively different from any other death*. His death was *qualitatively more painful*. On the Cross He cried: My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34; Psalm 21:1). His cry had a ruthless authenticity. Christ did not die renouncing God the Father. Even in the inferno of abandonment, He surrendered Himself to the living God, and His anguish was expressed in prayer in a cry of affirmation: “My God, My God.” The physical pain He felt was nothing compared to the spiritual experience of God’s abandonment, ostensibly.

On the cross, Christ went beyond even the worst human suffering and experienced cosmic rejection and pain that exceeded our human suffering(s), as infinitely as His knowledge and power exceeds ours.

*Why did He do it?* Why the death on the cross? Only the Christian faith tells us; He came to rescue us from sin, shame, guilt, and scorn, “to deliver us from this present evil world” (Gal. 1:4; Rom. 5:6-8; 2 Cor. 5:21). The death of Christ on the cross is one of the **distinctions** of the Christian faith. There is **nothing like this** in other religions.

Christ suffered physical pain, mental torture, and spiritual ignominy through grief culminating in agony, resulting from the separation of God’s holy presence. This was the black midnight of His horror; then, He descended in the abyss of suffering. *No human being can enter into the full meaning of these words!*

The living God turned His face from His Son. Christ was forsaken on the Cross. The glory of the cross must never be erased in the life of the obedient believer. The light of the empty grave and the resurrection must never be dimmed.

The birth-place of Christ was Bethlehem. At Gethsemane, there we see Him with the *cup* of agony; at Calvary, there we see Him suffering fully for all humankind on the cross. Now we see Him in His resurrection, there we see His empty grave—all go together. In all these, we see the sovereign hand and power of the infinite, living God!

All the religions of the world are based on “do” to be accepted by their god. Christianity is based on “**it is finished**” – “**done**” in the infinite value of the work of Christ—alone.

Christianity tells people to repent, and promises them forgiveness. Christianity, therefore, has nothing to say to people who do not know they have done anything (wrong) to repent of and who do not feel that they need any forgiveness.

Christianity is a way of life, a relationship with the infinite-personal, living, loving God through His Son—Jesus Christ. In the long run, Christianity is a thing of unspeakable comfort, but Christianity does not begin with **comfort** it begins with **dismay—a granting of repentance from sin, shame, and guilt.**

C. S. Lewis said, “If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end—if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth – only wishful thinking, to begin with, and in the end, despair and/or despondency.”

Christianity calls on us to lay down our arms, to surrender our pride, our self-centeredness, our shame, our guilt, etc. And then there is the promise of the forgiveness of sins --in Christ alone!

Christianity asks people to face facts—they are sinners, separated from their Maker, and a call to understand the questions which Christianity answers. The facts are very terrifying facts, but nevertheless, there is a solution to man’s problems—in Jesus Christ alone!