The Saviour – Part 2

We believe in the true and proper deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His real and complete humanity, in His sinless life, in His authoritative teaching, in His substitutionary and atoning sacrifice through His blood shed, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His heavenly intercession and His second advent to receive His Church.

Jesus is our substitute.

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous" ROMANS 5:18-19

"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive" 1 CORINTHIANS 15:22

We all suffered the consequences of Adam's sin, we all can benefit from what Jesus did on the cross. That is why it is called Good News.

We believe in His atoning sacrifice.

The atonement is the work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation. WAYNE GRUDEM

At–one–ment. One with God because of Jesus.

Why was it necessary for Jesus to die?

a) Because of God's love.

*"For God **so loved** the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." JOHN 3:16*

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10

*But God demonstrates his own **love** for us in this: **While we were** still **sinners**, Christ died for us. ROMANS 5:8*

Was it the nails, O Saviour,
That bound Thee to the tree?
Nay, 'twas Thine everlasting love,
Thy love for me, for me. KATHERINE KELLY

Does God love Putin?

How should we respond to the people we see as our enemies?

b) Because of God's justice.

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished. ROMANS 3:25

God is a God of justice; sin has to be paid for.

In the old testament the sacrificial system was established under Moses. Animal sacrifices were ritually offered to make temporary atonement for the people's sins.

Blood was shed to satisfy the wrath of God.

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Hebrews 9:12

Sacrifices were offered to make people at one with God.

But the sacrifices of the old testament were only temporary. Year after year sacrifices were made and blood was shed.

But then come to the New testament and listen to what the writer to the Hebrews says:

With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever. HEBREWS 9:12

c) Because there was no other way.

It is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. HEBREWS 10:4

A better sacrifice is required. HEBREWS 9:23

*"**If it be possible**, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will. MATT 26:39*

Only the perfect, sinless sacrifice was good enough to pay the price for our sin once and for all.

John Wesley when he was mugged shouted to his assailant:

'The blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanses us from all sin ." 1 JOHN 1:7

The man consequently became a respectable Christian businessman.

When you are tempted to shout an insult at someone, is there a way you could positively respond? (Consider various scenarios.)

We believe.. in His bodily resurrection.

"The gospel without the resurrection is not merely a gospel without its final chapter; it is not the gospel at all."

MICHAEL RAMSEY ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY 1961-1974

And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is worth nothing, and your faith is worth nothing. And also, we are guilty of lying about God, because we testified of him that he raised Christ from the dead. But if people are not raised from the dead, then God never raised Christ. If the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith has nothing to it; you are still guilty of your sins. And those in Christ who have already died are lost. If our hope in Christ is for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone else in the world. 1 COR 15: 14-19

Jesus was truly dead.

The crucifixion was such a cruel punishment that even the Romans got a conscience about it and outlawed it in AD315.

"The sufferers' veins were laid bare, and the very muscles, sinews and bowels of the victim were open to exposure."
EUSEBIUS OF CAESAREA

But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. *JOHN 19:33-34*

It's what the medics call hypovolemic shock.

There are many arguments that people have raised in objection to the resurrection.

a) The body was stolen.

When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep." MATT 28:12-13

b) The wrong tomb theory.

This is the idea that when the Marys and the disciples went to the tomb they went to the wrong one. All the tombs looked the same and they forgot which one Jesus was buried in.

c) The Hallucination theory.

This is the idea that as a result of the emotional upheaval and the roller coaster journey that they had been on, they saw what they wanted to see.

d) The Mistaken Identity theory.

This is the idea that it was not Jesus who really died on the cross. That it was someone that Jesus asked from the crowd to die as his look alike in exchange for a place in paradise. This is a common idea amongst the Muslims.

"They did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but they thought they did." SURAT AN-NISA 4:156 QUR'AN

What would you say to someone who raised any one of these arguments?

The resurrection ensures our justification.

"Jesus was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification." Romans 4:25

By raising Christ from the dead, God the Father was in effect saying that he approved of Christ's work of suffering and dying for our sins, that his work was completed, and that

Christ no longer had any need to remain to dead. In the resurrection, God was saying to Christ, "I approve of what you have done, and you find favour in my sight."

WAYNE GRUDEM

Justification consists not merely of a cancelling of our debt, but also of an imputing to us of the righteousness of Christ.

It is not only "just as if I'd never sinned," but also "just as if I'd already completed a perfect life."

The cross took away our sin, the resurrection gave us His righteousness.

> *I Am Covered Over With The Robe Of Righteousness*
> *That Jesus Gives To Me, Gives To Me;*
> *I Am Covered Over With The Precious Blood Of Jesus*
> *And He Lives In Me, He Lives In Me,*
> *Oh What Joy It Is To Know My Heavenly Father Loves Me So, And Gave To Me, My Jesus,*
> *When He Looks At Me He Sees Not What I Used To Be,*
> *But He Sees Jesus, Jesus.*

God treats us, not on the basis of who we are, but on the basis of who Jesus is.

That's a big implication for when we pray. God does not look at us and see how well we have behaved in the last week, how much we have read the bible, how many church meetings we have been to, or how much money we have put in the offering. He does not look at us to see whether we are good enough, He

looks at Jesus and sees He is already good enough. We approach God not according to the Old Covenant of works, but the New Covenant of grace.

I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. PHILIPPIANS 3:9 NLT

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. JAMES 5:16

The heartfelt prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power]. JAMES 5:16 AMP

What would you say to someone who felt unworthy and that their bad behaviour is the reason why God does not want to answer any of their prayers?

What would you say to someone who felt unworthy to be used by God?