

## Week 5 - 1 Peter 3:18

*For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.*

We have talked a lot about our sin problem this season and how the only one that can solve the problem is God Himself. We are incapable of stopping our sins and we can't get rid of any of our past sins. When we sin only once, and everyone has done that, we are stained forever with a mark that separates us from God. But we have also talked this season about the Savior that God has provided for us. That Savior is really God Himself as He came to earth in the form of a man.

A little more than 2000 years ago, God sent an angel to a young woman named Mary telling her that she would give birth to a special son in a miraculous way. The angel told her to name the boy Jesus, because that name means Savior. He would be the promised Christ to save people from their sins because he would be God in human flesh. And Jesus was exactly that.

You see, Jesus was not just a regular man. He was God Himself. Jesus was the same one who was the Creator in Genesis 1. He never had a beginning, but always existed even before anything else was made. He didn't have to come to earth, but he chose to be born as a little baby so that he could take our place and be our Savior.

Because Jesus was God, he never sinned like all other humans do. He never deserved anything bad to happen to him, but he came to earth to suffer and die in order to pay the price for our sin. Throughout his whole life, Jesus was perfect and never sinned. He never had those stains of sin that we have, but he took our place and died so that we would not have to.

1 Peter 3:18 says, "For Christ (that is Jesus) also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit." Jesus paid the price for everyone's sin when he died on the cross about 2000 years ago. He was righteous, meaning that he had no sin of his own, but he died in our place so that we wouldn't have to. And because he took the penalty of our sins away, we no longer need to be separated from God.

The punishment for sin is severe. The price to pay is death. Like we talked about last week, Jesus paid that price for everyone in the world because of his mercy and love for us. He died a cruel death, but it was all so that we could be set free. He took away our punishment, but even more than that, he didn't stay dead; he came back to life! Jesus showed that he was more powerful than sin and death and he offers forgiveness of sins and new life because of what he accomplished.

We know we are doomed because of our sin and need to be made new. Well, there is good news: Jesus, the Creator of all things at the beginning of time, died for us and defeated even death so that he could create in us a new heart for a new life. He can make us new and bring us back into a relationship with God. He has already paid the price for all sin, but that does not mean everyone is automatically saved and at peace with God. We will talk next week about what we must do in response to what Jesus has done.

### Discussion Questions:

- What does the name Jesus mean?
- What is it that separates us from God?
- How many sins did Jesus die for?
- Why is it important that Jesus rose from the dead?