

And, Christ did not JUST become obedient. **He** didn't JUST satisfy the *precept* of the law. **He** also satisfied its *penalty*. **He** surrendered His obedient life UNTO DEATH. **He** became obedient UNTO DEATH. **In all** of history, in all the universe, this statement, (**“He became obedient unto death”**), can be made of but ONE.

Christ's death was not the RESULT of sin. **Christ** had done NOTHING (in Himself) to deserve death. **He** had done NOTHING (in Himself) that could cause Him to die. **He** was “holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners”.

Christ DID no sin and “knew no sin”. **The** Apostle Peter said, **“He did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.”** **He** offered Himself WITHOUT SPOT to God. **He** died the JUST for the unjust. **Christ** did not die as a RESULT of sin. **Rather**, Christ's death was an act of His OBEDIENCE.

Listen to John 14: 30-31. (**This** is just before Christ's arrest.) **“Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.**

31 But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.”

When He says “Let us go hence”, He is talking about His going to the cross; **He** is talking about finishing the work He had been given, (**“even as His Father gave Him commandment”**).

Listen to John 10: 17-18 **“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”**

Death could not OVERTAKE Christ. **Death** will OVERTAKE you and me. **We** are sinners. **Our** bodies will die as the (ultimate) RESULT of sin.

But, Christ's death was not like ours. **Death** DID NOT, (indeed), it COULD NOT, OVERTAKE Christ without His full approval. **He** had to SURRENDER Himself to it. **He** had to GIVE Himself to its power. **He** had to OBEY His Father's will in order to die.

Foolish men speak ignorantly about Christ's death. **They** say things like, “If I had been there, I would have stopped it.” **You** would have stopped Christ from complying with His Father's will? **You** would have stopped Christ from obeying the commandment of His Father? **You** would have stopped Christ from putting away sin and establishing the Righteousness by which God is Just to justify ungodly sinners? **You** would have thwarted the very purpose for which Christ became Incarnate? **Those** who say such things about Christ's death, do not see His death as NECESSARY; as VOLUNTARY; as an ACT of His obedience.

Even those chosen by God in Christ and certain for final glory speak ignorantly of Christ's death UNTIL they are taught. **Remember** what Peter said when Christ explained to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer and be killed and be raised from the dead? **Matthew** 16: 22-23 **“Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall**

not be unto thee.” But, Christ answered, **“Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.”**

I, too, spoke foolishly and ignorantly of Christ’s death when I taught sinners that although Christ died for you, you will still end up under God’s eternal wrath UNLESS you do YOUR PART. **I was** at that time IGNORANTLY teaching that it was the SINNER’S part (not the death of Christ ALONE) that (ultimately) made the difference between heaven and hell.

Men have IMAGINED that they had power over Christ. **They** have IMAGINED that they had some power to continue His life or end it.

Listen to John 19: 10-11 **“Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?”**

But, listen to Christ’s answer in verse 11, **“Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.”**

When they came to arrest Christ, Peter drew his sword and defended Him. **But,** Christ told Peter in John 18: 11 **“Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?”** **Christ** is telling Peter that He must and that He would go to the death His Father had PREPARED for Him; the death His Father COMMANDED of Him.

Death did not OVERTAKE Christ. **Death** did not come as a RESULT of anything found in Him. **Rather,** He SURRENDERED Himself unto death. **His** death was the FINAL; it was the FINISHING; it was the ACCOMPLISHING act of His OBEDIENCE. **“He** humbled Himself and became OBEDIENT unto death...” **That** is the REALITY of Christ’s obedience unto death.

Next, consider the REASON(s) for Christ’s obedience unto death. **Why** did Christ die? **Why** did He need to die? **If** Christ’s death was not the RESULT of sin, HOW THEN, was it possible for Him to end up in death?

THIS Man DID no sin. **THIS** Man KNEW no sin. **THIS** Man obeyed every precept of God’s law perfectly and continually. **How** could THIS Man end up in death? **How** could Christ die? **Fallen** men, unregenerate men have many answers to that question. **THEY** say, Christ died to provide fallen men and women a WAY of salvation. **THEY** say, Christ’s death makes salvation POSSIBLE for any sinner who will do THEIR part.

But, scripturally, there is only ONE (right) answer to that question. **Christ** died under the PENALTY of sin. **He** died under the PUNISHMENT of sin. **He** died under what the scriptures call the “second death”. **He** died because the people He had been given to save were facing the “curse of the law” (the “curse” of eternal death).

Look back at our text, Philippians 2: 8 **“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”**

See the last phrase in that verse. **That** phrase, of course, means that Christ died a painful and shameful death. **His** was (perhaps) the cruelest METHOD of death ever invented by man. **But**, I believe this is referring to MORE than just the METHOD used in Christ's death. **I believe** it is speaking of the KIND of death Christ died. **He** died "the death of the cross". **He** died the death of the "accursed". **Listen** to Galatians 3:13 "**Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:**"

Christ suffered what the justice of God demands of every soul that sins. **He** became Incarnate in order to suffer the (eternal) death His people deserved. **He** became obedient unto the death His people deserved. **He** died the death His people would (most certainly) be facing if He had not died in their place (as their Substitute; as their Surety). **His** people are the "accursed". **He** died the death WE deserved.

Christ's obedience unto death was necessary. (**He HAD TO** become Incarnate. **He HAD TO** die. **His** death was NECESSARY.), because His Father is JUST. **God** MUST do right. His STANDARD of Judgment is strict and inflexible. **Christ** died because sin demands death. **Christ** died because His Father's law is strict. **It** demands perfect, continual obedience. **It** demands the kind of obedience Christ rendered to it in His earthly walk. **And**, it curses all who fall short of that standard.

Galatians 3: 10 "**For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.**" God's law is STRICT.

And, Christ died because God's Justice is INFLEXIBLE. **It** MUST (it WILL) see the punishment of every soul that sins. **God** will "by no means clear the guilty". **God** will not pardon or forgive any sin that has not been punished with the eternal death that soul deserves and God's Justice demands.

Christ died because of IMPUTED sin. **He** did not die as a PRIVATE Person, but as a Representative. **Listen** to Romans 5: 19 "**For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.**" **Christ** died as a Representative.

Christ's death was NECESSARY because the sinners He was given were facing not only the physical death which would be the RESULT of their sin, but also the SECOND death, which is the death that punishes sin. **He HAD** to die because His people are sinners.

Christ HAD to die because His Father is Just. **He HAD** to offer Himself "without spot to God". **He HAD** to die, "the just for the unjust". **He HAD** to "lay down His (perfectly obedient) life for the sheep".

He HAD to die because the sins of His people were imputed to Him. **And**, He HAD to die in order to suffer the punishment those sinners deserved and God's justice demands of every soul that sins. God is Just.

Lastly, Christ HAD to die because His obedience unto death is the ONLY thing that would fulfill the law of God and satisfy the justice of God. **It is** the ONLY thing that would "make an end of sin". **His** death is the ONLY thing that could establish the righteousness of God. **His** death is the ONLY thing

that could make it RIGHT for God to declare those sinners He was given forever righteous in His sight.

The REASON(s) FOR Christ's obedience unto death: His people are sinners. His Father is Just. His death ALONE could bring the reconciliation of these two parties.

We've looked at the REALITY. **We've** looked at the REASON(S). **Now**, the last thing we will consider is the RESULTS of Christ's obedience unto death.

Let's just think about RESULTS (in general) for a moment. **When** you and I are working, we are working for RESULTS. **The MEANS** that get us to those RESULTS may not always be pleasant. **In** fact the MEANS are usually trying and difficult. **But**, we are not working for the MEANS. **We** are working for the PAYOFF. **We** ENDURE the means to get to the PAYOFF. **Yesterday**, (hot water heater).

Christ was also working for the PAYOFF. **He** was working for RESULTS. **And**, His death was not without RESULTS. **His** death was not without ACCOMPLISHMENT. **I. e. There** are some things that are true BECAUSE OF Christ's death that would not, (COULD NOT) be true WITHOUT it. Christ's death had RESULTS. **And**, His eyes were ALWAYS on those RESULTS.

Listen to Hebrews 12: 1-2 **"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

How do we do that? Verse 2, **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."**

Christ did what He did "for the JOY that was set before Him". **He** endured the suffering, humiliation and shame of the Cross because of the RESULTS His death would accomplish. **It** was a three-fold "joy"; three (certain) RESULTS.

Look back in our text at Philippians 2: 9-11 **"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:**

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The first RESULT of Christ's obedience unto death is His own EXALTATION. **"Wherefore"**, means because of what was just stated. **I.e.** BECAUSE Christ humbled Himself; BECAUSE He became obedient unto death; (for this reason) God "highly exalted" Him.

Christ is the PREEMINENT One in salvation. **HE** (alone) became obedient unto death. **HE** (alone) satisfied the law and justice of God. **HE** (alone) put away the sin of His people by a just satisfaction. **HE** (alone) established the righteousness by which God is just to justify the ungodly.

BECAUSE Christ glorified His Father in salvation; **BECAUSE** He saved His people from their sins; **BECAUSE** He provided the righteousness needed, God gave Christ a NAME "which is above every name". **What** is that NAME?

Listen to Jeremiah 23: 5-6 “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

The first RESULT of Christ’s obedience unto death: His own exaltation.

The next RESULT of Christ’s obedience unto death is His Father’s GLORY, (i.e. His REDEMPTIVE glory). “Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.”

Because Christ died, God is just to justify ungodly sinners like you and me. **Because** Christ died, God is DOING RIGHT to declare EVERY sinner He died for eternally, unchangeable righteous in His sight. **In fact**, God would NOT be doing right; **He** would be UNJUST to do anything else. **He** would BE unjust to charge those sinners with sin. **He** would be UNJUST to PUNISH those sinners for their sin.

Without Christ’s obedience unto death, God would ONLY be just to declare ALL (without exception) worthy of His eternal wrath. **Without** Christ’s obedience unto death, God would ONLY be just to send every son and daughter of Adam to the eternal misery we deserve. **But**, because Christ became obedient unto death, God is just to justify every sinner He died for. **Christ’s** death RESULTED in His Father’s (redemptive) glory.

And, the last RESULT of Christ’s obedience unto death is the FULL/COMPLETE salvation of His people.

Listen to one verse from 1Th 5:9 “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Christ delivered His people from the wrath we deserve. **He** delivered His people from the wrath we would be facing apart from His death. **And**, He OBTAINED the salvation we could never deserve or obtain by any works of our hands.

Where was the nation Israel when God sent the death angel to take the first born in every household in Egypt? **They** were there. **They** were in Egypt. **Why** didn’t the death angel take their first born? **They** didn’t suffer like the Egyptians because they were under the blood of the Passover Lamb. **That** blood is a picture of Christ bearing God’s wrath in the place of His chosen people.

Where were Noah and his family when God poured out His wrath on the unbelieving world of their day? **They** were there. **But**, they were SAFE in the Ark. **Again**, that Ark is a picture of God punishing His people in the Person of Christ, the Substitute.

Not only will God never charge His people with sin; **not** only are they NOT GUILTY, (i.e. not facing any possibility of punishment or wrath from God), **not** only is that true, **BUT**, they are ALSO forever/unchangeably righteous in God’s sight.

God WILL NOT charge them with sin, INDEED, He CANNOT charge them with sin. **He** WILL NOT punish them for their sin, INDEED, He CANNOT because He has (already) punished

their sins (and them) in Christ. **And**, He has charged to them the righteousness Christ worked out by His obedience unto death.

In time the Shepherd of THESE sinners will seek them out and bring them into the fold. **John 10: 16** “**And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.**”

For Christ to leave one sinner His Father gave Him in the wilderness (i.e. lost in false religion), would be for God and Him to be dishonored. **He** will BRING them to Himself. **They** WILL come to Him.

John 6: 37 “**All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**”

It is the COMING of THESE sinners to Christ that identifies and distinguishes them from the rest of the religious world in their successive generations.

I.e. The people of God are KNOWN by the Savior they “come to”. **They** are KNOWN by the Savior they trust for salvation. **Their** religious families and friends trust a “so-called” savior who made salvation POSSIBLE. But, THESE do not. THESE have been delivered from THAT “savior”. **THESE** trust the ONE identified in the Gospel. **They** take HIS name.

We already looked at Christ’s name in Jeremiah 23. **This** is Jeremiah 33: 16 “**In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness.**”

This is referring to the Church, the Bride of Christ. **Like** a bride, they take HIS name. **Taking** His name is not just taking a title. **It is** resting in Christ ALONE.

They march under His orders. **Listen** at Jeremiah 51:10 “**The LORD hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God.**”

Their marching orders are to declare Christ’s Person and HIS work (i.e. HIS righteousness) to the world in their generation.

And, the confidence of THESE sinners is Christ’s righteousness imputed ALONE. **Look** at Philippians 3: 7-8 “**But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:**”

There is but (one) HOPE for the fallen sons and daughters of Adam, (one HOPE for you or for me). **That** HOPE is that God had determined to show me mercy for Christ’s sake; **the** HOPE that He has appointed Christ my Substitute and Surety; **the** HOPE that He has charged my sins to Christ; **the** HOPE that He has charged to me the righteousness Christ worked out by His obedience unto death; **the** HOPE that He counts me forever righteous based on Christ’s righteousness imputed ALONE.

The ENTIRE salvation of God is found in Christ “humbling Himself” (i.e. “committing Himself to Him who judges righteously”), and “becoming OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH”. **My** closing encouragement is: “Let this mind be in you”. **Commit** your WHOLE salvation to “Him who judges righteously”. **Commit** your WHOLE salvation to the doing and dying of Christ ALONE.

By Mark Pannell