

Study Guide

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BY STILL WATERS

Christian Essentials

5. Why Jesus?

The gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ) has been called the ‘greatest story ever told.’ Why is it the greatest? I would say, because it is about God blessing all nations. It is about good things to come - forever. In one passage it is correctly called "the everlasting gospel" (Revelation 14:6). It is God's plan for blessing all of humanity for eternity. Let us begin our study Christian essentials over the next eight lessons. I call this Christian Essentials because most Christians across denominations and nations would agree with the concepts presented in this series. Here we reflect on a topic that frequently comes up, “Why Jesus only?”

NOTES & QUOTES FROM PODCAST

1. Jesus is an enigma!

Jesus is an enigma to many. He has been described as a good man, a wise man, a prophet, a healer, a miracle worker and yes, also God. Jesus however, is concerned only about one thing.

He once expressed this concern when He asked His disciple a question. The answer to that question still carries eternal consequences.

2. Who do you think Jesus is?

He asked, “But what about you?” “Who do you say I am?” (Mark 8:29). Jesus is still interested in your answer and my answer to this question. My answer is simply, “Jesus is my Lord and God.”

Let me offer some reasons for my response in this talk and the next. These reasons are why we all must pay attention to Him.

3. Jesus came to seek and save the lost

Due to sin mentioned in the previous talk, we sinners are all separated from God. This is because sin cannot remain in the presence of God (Psalm 5:4).

One of the things that attracted me to Jesus and Christianity when I was an agnostic skeptic was unlike others Jesus is a God whose mission on earth was to “*seek and save lost sinners.*” (Luke 19:10) He did not come to destroy or even condemn powerless sinners in the vice grip of the tumor called Satan.

Here is a God who does not need any appeasing to forgive and forget our sins. On the contrary He loved you and me so much that He sent His Son to save mankind.

My response to this amazing and incomprehensible love is grateful acceptance.

4. Why is Jesus only able to save sinners?

But, how is it Jesus has the power to save sinners? There are many ways that people believe they can be saved and try those ways. Unfortunately, it is not what or who is acceptable to us that matters but what or who is acceptable to God.

Only the price paid by Jesus’ sinless life is acceptable by God. You see God is a just judge and so He cannot overlook any sin. The wages of sin are death and has to be paid for. Jesus the sinless savior paid the price on our

behalf on the cross. Now while this is all may seem to be mysterious, Jesus sinless life is not. Several passages in the Bible attest to this. On the cross Jesus paid the price for all our sins and He defeated death by the power of His resurrection. His sinlessness made it impossible for the grave to hold Him, and He rose from the grave. Jesus death and resurrection are the cornerstones of the Christian faith that reconciled us all with God for eternity.

While Jesus' death is acceptable to God and His resurrection the effect of His sinlessness, for an agnostic and skeptic like me His resurrection is key to my accepting Him as my Lord and my God.

In my next talk on we will explore Jesus' resurrection

REFLECTION TIME

- Review three reasons you wrote at the end of the previous episode on why you believe Jesus is the solution for the problem of sin. How do they match up with this lesson?
- As you prepare for the next exciting episode on Jesus' resurrection, can you list three reasons why you believe Jesus' had a real bodily resurrection? In case you don't believe it was a real bodily resurrection, please write down your reasons.

THE BIBLE'S VIEW ON WHY JESUS ALONE CAN SAVE SINNERS

Jesus is the only way to heaven. Such an exclusive statement may confuse, surprise, or even offend, but it is true nonetheless. The Bible teaches that there is no other way to salvation than through Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself says in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." He is not *a* way, as in one of many; He is *the* way, as in the one and only. No one, regardless of reputation, achievement, special knowledge, or personal holiness, can come to God the Father except through Jesus. **Why?**

The Bible offers several reasons.

- Jesus was "chosen by God" to be the Savior (*1 Peter 2:4*).
- Jesus is the only One to have come down from heaven and returned there (*John 3:13*).
- He is the only person to have lived a perfect human life (*Hebrews 4:15*).
- He is the only sacrifice for sin (*Hebrews 10:26*).
- He alone fulfilled the Law and the Prophets (*Matthew 5:17*).
- He is the only Mediator between God and man (*1 Timothy 2:5*).
- He is the only man whom God has "exalted . . . to the highest place" (*Philippians 2:9*).
- He is the only man to have conquered death forever (*Hebrews 2:14–15*).

(Abridged from article in <https://www.gotquestions.org>)

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