

And he Did All of This By Dying As Our Substitute The reality of substitution is at the heart of the atonement. Christ accomplished all of the above benefits for us by dying in our place "that is, by dying instead of us.

But, in the ancient world, crucifixion was a horrible form of execution which accomplished both the torture and death of the persons sentenced to such a punishment. Crucifixion involved either tying or nailing a person to a large wooden cross in a manner such that his feet would not touch the ground. Hanging there, the person would linger for hours and sometimes days, asphyxiating until the lungs filled with fluids and he died. Before the advent of Jesus Christ, the Cross was an instrument of pain and death. That was all that the Cross accomplished, until Jesus came along. An instrument of pain and death To be perfectly clear, the Cross itself did not accomplish anything except that which it was designed to do. Jesus, however, accomplished much, much more. Before we get into what Jesus accomplished from the Cross, we need to learn a little bit about salvation history and about Jesus. Salvation history Instead of reading the entire Bible, Chapter 11 in the book of Hebrews has a concise statement of the entire history of man in the Old Testament. As you read it, notice that the Hebrews were a faithful people who accomplished many things which God had instructed them to do. It is a heroic story. But they did not receive that which was promised. What is it that was promised? They did not enter the Promised Land where they would dwell with God for eternity. They did not enter heaven. Where did they go, then? Their souls went to a place of Limbo which is described as the Bosom of Abraham. From this place, which is outside of time, they watched Salvation History unfold and witnessed the coming of Christ, the Messiah whom they were awaiting. This everyone knows or should. But what no one knew, up to that time, is to what a degree God had made them His people. In the Old Testament, God said to them: I will rid the country of ravenous beasts, and no sword shall sweep across your land. And the only way to fulfill the promises of a Will, is to die. Therefore, the eternal and living God had to die. How does an eternal God die? In the Spirit world, where God dwells, there is no such thing as death. Only in the material world do living beings die. That is because in the material world, the spiritual element, in men and animals, animates the body. When the spirit and the body are separated, the body dies. Because He it is, who died in order to fulfill His promises to His people. Here is how Scripture explains this: After which, the Jews were allowed to enter into heaven. They were cleansed of their sins and could now enter heaven. So, the Old Testament Jews entered heaven, now what about us? First of all, we need to remember that the promises of God are eternal. They have been fulfilled and will continue to be fulfilled, to the end of time. And they are being fulfilled in those who have turned to Jesus Christ obeying Him in faith: But now, we have to die You see, all is accomplished in Christ. Therefore, in order for us to receive the promises of the Old Testament, we must become Christ: We are alive with a supernatural life. We no longer have the natural life of the natural man or animal. We are now Testaments of the Holy Spirit. By His Cross and Resurrection, Christ has set us free!

Chapter 2 : What Did Jesus's™ Death On The Cross Accomplish? | LifeCoach4God

There are several theories in the Christian world about how Jesus Christ saved us from sin and reconciled us to God. Traditional Christianity teaches that the human race had turned away from God and God was angry and ready to destroy the human race.

While on a mission in Baghdad to find an area suitable for housing a generator to provide power to local residents, Army Spc. Ross McGinnis saved the lives of at least four of his fellow soldiers by smothering a grenade thrown into their Humvee with his body. This act of bravery cost him his life, but saved the lives of everyone else inside the Humvee. Newland said that Spc. Such acts of valor are uncommon. McGinnis, it does happen. But it would be nearly impossible to find examples of people sacrificing their life for an enemy. Amazingly enough, Jesus made such a sacrifice. Nearly 2, years ago, the Apostle Paul wrote the following in Romans: For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Yet, Jesus died for us. He made the ultimate sacrifice with his life for you and me. The Implications of the Cross Why did Jesus die? Why did he sacrifice his life for his enemies? What did his death on the cross accomplish for you and me? To do this, we need to briefly examine eight truths that are absolutely essential to understanding why Jesus died on the cross and what his death means for us. God is holy and without any sin. God is holy, without sin, and altogether good. God made the world and us as good. Not only is God good, but also everything he made was originally good, including human beings, who were made in his image and likeness Genesis 1: We rebelled against God. Though God made the world and us as good, our first father and mother rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world. This first sin was trying to become the God of our own lives by doing the one thing we were asked not to do. Ever since, we have sought to remove God from his throne and place ourselves on the throne instead Genesis 3: Sin results in death. God is the source of all life, and our sin results in our separation from him and death. Just as a piece of technology unplugged from its power source continues to exist but is functionally dead, so are we dead in our sin. The Bible says that because of sin we are physically alive but spiritually dead Genesis 2: Jesus is the only person who has or will ever live without sin John 8: Jesus became our sin. On the cross as our substitute, Jesus willfully became the worst of what we are. This does not mean that Jesus sinned. Rather, it means that he took our sins on as his responsibility and paid the price for them that we should have paid – death. Jesus died for us. The Bible teaches that in perfect justice, because Jesus was made to be our sin, he died for us. His death was in our place, solely for our benefit, and without benefit for himself. Rather, he took it willingly John The sinless Jesus literally stood in our place to suffer and die for us. A Final Word Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for you and me. Jesus is our Savior who alone can take away the punishment we deserve because of our sin. Jesus is our Savior who died in our place, bearing our punishment and taking away our sin – past, present, and future. Though we will have consequences for committing sin on earth, Jesus has completely, once and for all, bore the eternal penalty for our sins. This means that through Jesus there are no more penalties that need to be paid for sins we commit. Trust Jesus with your life.

Chapter 3 : What did the Cross accomplish? What does Scripture say?

What did his death on the cross accomplish for you and me? To understand the significance of Jesus' death on the cross, also known as the atonement, we must connect it to the doctrines of God's character, God's creation, human sin, and God's responses to sin and sinners.

April 18, by Jimmy Leave a Comment The question presented as the title is one of the central questions of Christianity. This means that Jesus paid the penalty that we owed God by dying the death we deserved to die in our place as our substitute in order to bring human beings separated from God by sin back into a relationship with God. There are various theories of the atonement that are debated by theologians, but I believe it is better to see penal substitutionary atonement as the heart of the cross but see also that Jesus accomplished several other wonderful things for us through His death. My desire in writing this is to help us see biblically that penal substitutionary atonement is true, see several things that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross, and see what this means to our lives. I believe that understanding what Jesus did for us on the cross will radically change our lives. So, why am I writing this now? One reason is that tomorrow April 14, is good Friday so this is a spiritual exercise for me that I hope will be helpful to others also. In this article, Mr. I believe, however, we have to try. There are serious flaws with the theory. So to some degree, this is my response to Mr. I hope it is a helpful service to our church and also the larger body of Christ. In the first paragraph, Mr. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: This issue is a matter of salvation so it is of eternal importance. I want to share Mr. To his credit, he does a good job of accurately presenting the evangelical doctrine of the atonement before disagreeing with it. Of course, I encourage you to read his article for yourself. Here are what I see as the key points of his disagreement with penal substitutionary atonement and then the idea he presents in its place. To deny this truth is to deny Christ. The major problem with substitutionary atonement is the way it imagines God. What kind of justice or God is this? Would a loving parent make forgiveness for the child conditioned upon a violent act? We human powers killed Jesus. Jesus bore our sins on the cross in the sense that he, as the Son of Man, as the representative human being, bore the hate and animosity of the world in his service to God. He became a scapegoat to end scapegoating, to expose the folly and evil of scapegoating any human being. He became the lightning rod where the pent up oppositional energy of the powers that be the world became focused. In bearing the sin "the hate, evil and animosity of the world" he exposed it and exhausted it, thus overcoming it. The nonviolent God of Jesus, however, is incompatible with a God who makes a horrendous act of violence a divinely required act of atonement. Jesus died because the powers that be had him killed. But in a symbolic way, he bore the suffering, hate and evil of the world. We are called to do the same. In various ways in the Old Testament, Jesus is foreshadowed and prophesied to be the sacrifice for our sins. After the Fall as recorded in Genesis 3, God killed an innocent animal to clothe the guilty 3: This is a picture of the cross. The Passover Exodus First, Yahweh revealed himself as the Judge. Second, Yahweh revealed himself as the Redeemer. He had redeemed them to make them his own people. First, the Judge and Savior are the same person. We must never characterize the Father as Judge and the Son as Savior. It is one and the same God who through Christ saves us from himself. Second, salvation was and is by substitution. The only firstborn males who were spared were those in whose families a firstborn lamb had died instead. There had to be an individual appropriation of the divine provision. Fourth, each family rescued by God was thereby purchased for God. Their whole life now belonged to him. And consecration leads to celebration. First, blood is the symbol of life. Second, blood makes atonement, and the reason for its atoning significance is given in the repetition of the word life. Crawford expressed it well: Life was given for life, the life of the victim for the life of the offerer, indeed the life of the innocent victim for the life of the sinful offerer. This Old Testament background helps us to understand two crucial texts in the letter to the Hebrews. No forgiveness without blood meant no atonement without substitution. There had to be life for life or blood for blood. But the Old Testament blood sacrifices were only shadows, the substance was Christ. The 22nd Psalm is a Messianic psalm that presents several specific prophecies regarding the crucifixion of Christ and crucifixion had not even been invented yet. But He

was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. What about the New Testament? Here is a brief overview of the explicit New Testament teaching regarding penal substitutionary atonement. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die, but God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. When sinners were in the condition in which they were powerless for good, He died for huper them. This had to happen for atonement to occur because Genesis 2: In order to be holy, righteous, just, and true to His Word, God the Creator and righteous Judge of the universe, had to impose the sentence. But because He is also loving, merciful, gracious, and kind; God took on humanity in the person of Jesus Christ, the God-Man, and died as our personal substitute making atonement for our sins so God can justly justify sinners. Therefore, we worship our great God and King as perfectly and simultaneously just, holy, loving, merciful, and gracious! So, in his penal substitutionary atonement, what did Jesus actually accomplish for us on the cross? Remember these are not competing theories but complementary pictures of the accomplishment of the atonement. They are all true. Jesus is our new-covenant sacrifice: Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. We no longer need to offer blood sacrifices because Jesus is our once for all perfect sacrifice. We do not need a temple because Jesus is our Temple. We do not need to celebrate the Passover because Jesus is our Passover. Jesus is our propitiation: Scripture repeatedly tells us that God hates sin and is righteously angry with sinners on whom He pours out His wrath. Eschatological wrath-final Day of the Lord C. Cataclysmic wrath-flood, Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah D. Consequential wrath-principal of sowing and reaping E. The wrath of abandonment-removing restraint and letting people go in their sins Propitiation is the fact that the wrath of God was diverted from us to Jesus when He died as our sacrifice on the cross Romans 3: For example, 1 John 2: All of the wrath and condemnation that was destined for us and deserved by us was absorbed by Jesus on the cross. Jesus is our justifier: Sin must be punished, and the punishment for sin is death. Thankfully, God is also patient, merciful, gracious, and forgiving. Therefore, the way that He justly justifies sinners is through the finished work of Jesus Christ. Justify means to declare righteous. It is an instantaneous judicial act. It is our standing before God. He forgives us of all sin; past, present, and future in Christ. Jesus is our righteousness: This is a righteousness that is given by grace as a gift. It is an imputed righteousness see Romans 4 and not an infused righteousness. Jesus took our sin and gave us his righteousness. Jesus is our redemption: We are enslaved by sin, but Jesus died to buy us back and bring us back to God Galatians 4: Jesus is our victory: This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Chapter 4 : Vintage Jesus, Part 3: What Did Jesus Accomplish on the Cross? | The Jesus Question

As we get started this evening we'll, be talking about the death of Jesus on the cross and what did that accomplish. And it is interesting as you read the four Gospels which tell us the life of Jesus, Mathew, Mark, Luke and John.

Life is growing and learning every day, every experience gives us new wisdom and insight into giving God the glory. Who did He accomplish it for. Who did Jesus die for? Some one asked, "What do you do? What is that may I ask? The death of Christ was necessary for God to be able to forgive us of our sins and make it possible that God could save us. We all know about the Cross, we know that Jesus Christ did die on the cross. We know that Jesus Christ had to die on the Cross, even though we might not know why exactly. We might know the why? But we might not know for whom did Christ die? And we might not know what did Christ accomplish in His death on the Cross. So let us look at this today. Generally most people will say that Jesus Christ died for "everybody, of course! Here is the question: Did Jesus die for those who had already died before the Cross? Many people before 33 AD had died who were awaiting eternity in hell. And when Jesus die He knew it would do them no good. Here is the question then: Did Jesus bear the punishment for their sins? In the Old Testament, where the sacrifice offerings were made, just exactly did it do for the other nations? Did the sacrifice actually pay for, and cover the sins of everyone in the whole world? And if true, why was God still angry with these other nations? Whose iniquities does Jesus bear? Those who He made righteous. What was Jesus intention of the Cross? Jesus will save His people from their sins. Jesus said, I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. So what did the death of Christ on the cross accomplished: Which means that His death paid the debt those sins created. His death removed the wrath of God from me. His death purchased heaven for me. It really accomplished those thing! Was their debt for sin paid for? Why is he paying again in hell? Was the wrath lifted? You might say, as I have in the pasted. So people will who reject Jesus really will be punished for their specific sins, not just for rejecting Jesus. In what sense did Christ taste death for the sins of those in hell? Are they still guilty for their sins and still suffer punishment for their sins, and if so what happen on the cross for their sins? Here is what Christ did on the cross. Jesus obtained by His blood is the wiping out of all my sins, covering them, bearing them in His own body, so that they can never bring me to ruin. Unless you believe in universalism, that everyone will be saved. So who did Christ save? Jesus redeemed by His blood people out of every tribe, tongue, people and nation. Well what about I John 2: The whole world means people of all kinds, including Jews, Gentiles, Greeks and Romans.. The Son loses none of those given to Him by the Father. Well what about Hebrews 2: Note then verse From eternity God designed the plan that He would save millions and Christ died on the Cross not in vain, but gave Himself for His sheep, His Church and finished the work of redemption for all in this number. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone, based on Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone.

Chapter 5 : What did Jesus Accomplish by His Death on the Cross? | New Church

What Did Jesus Accomplish On The Cross? As we come to the end of "The Cross" series, I wanted you to have in writing a summary of the varying aspects of what Jesus accomplished on the cross that we covered in this series plus some others that we did not cover.

Why did Jesus die on the Cross? One Common Explanation One popular rationale for the death of Jesus goes something like this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. To satisfy the justice and anger of God, Jesus chooses to save us by taking upon himself the punishment that all of our sins deserve. God the Father pours out his wrath upon Jesus on the Cross, as if he were the one who had committed all of our sins. Jesus has traded places with us: God has looked upon Jesus as if he were guilty and is now able to look upon us as if we are innocent. This explanation is known as "penal substitution," because Jesus serves as our substitute in taking the punishment that we deserve. The Problems with Penal Substitution The theory of "penal substitution," which is probably taught more than any alternative here in the United States, particularly among Evangelical Protestants, has some issues worth addressing. These problems have been pointed out not only by Catholics but by other Evangelical Christians. First, this explanation seems to imply that all we need to do is sign on the dotted line, accepting Jesus as our Savior, and nothing else matters. It seems to imply that a believer has the freedom to sin without any consequences and that moral conversion is really optional for the believer, because the punishment for all of our sins is already taken care of by Jesus anyway. If Jesus suffered on the Cross instead of us, why would we take up a cross? This seems to me to give us a distorted vision of God and makes the moral teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount seem out of place: Jesus says to "love your enemies" Matthew 5: The redemptive value comes instead from the fact that the innocent Jesus, out of pure love, entered into solidarity with the guilty and thus transformed their situation from within. Even though Jesus, unlike us, is completely innocent, he chooses to experience death in solidarity with us. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: Jesus did not experience reprobation as if he himself had sinned. But in the redeeming love that always united him to the Father, he assumed us in the state of our waywardness of sin, to the point that he could say in our name from the cross: Jesus solved that problem by giving himself wholeheartedly, perfectly and completely out of love for God and for us, more than making up for our sins. The Cross redeems us not because the Father pours out his wrath on the Son, but because the Son pours out his love to the Father. Finally, in rising again, Jesus brings about a new way of life for us, transforming us from within and conforming us to his own holiness. Paul emphasizes this in Romans 6: We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. In Baptism we are buried with Jesus and rise again with him to a new way of life. In this new life of grace, we called to be more and more conformed to Jesus as St. Paul says in Romans 8: Instead, Jesus was holy so that we could actually be made interiorly holy, not by our strength, but by his.

Chapter 6 : What did the Cross Accomplish? - Jesus is Not Fake News

In this series Prince describes 10 things that Jesus did for you at the cross. It is a powerful message that will have you thanking Jesus for his love and sacrifice. Prince preached The Divine Exchange back in

What did Christ accomplish for us on the cross? What, then, is salvation? Is it a momentary event? Is it a lifelong process? It is all of that. This is a picture of the salvation life: We are born in sin and separation from God Romans 5: Someday, we will all die Hebrews 9: My mind is changed. My heart is changed. My life is now moving in a new direction. Another word for this change toward a new direction is repentance. I have repented from being content in my life of sin and separation from God. I have repented from trusting in myself or something else to save me from my sin and separation from God. I have repented from my disbelief in Jesus as the Son of God and as the one and only Savior of the world. This change – this repentance – is known as conversion. Now, the result of our conversion and regeneration is that we are justified. In this moment, the accused is pardoned, the spiritually blind can now see, like never before, the orphan receives adoption as a beloved child, the condemned sinner is now declared redeemed righteous, the dead soul is resurrected to new life. And – listen – this is important – this is why I have a white line there at the moment of justification – in this moment, the power of sin to rule over our lives is broken. Because of justification signified by the white line, we have victory! Brothers and sisters, that is what Easter is all about! Because of this, we have victory! Because of this, we are more than conquerors! Because of this, we have overcome! And in the end of days – when the war with sin is over – we will reign with our Savior and Lord, Jesus, forever in glory. We will enter into the final, eternal stage of our salvation life: This, all of this, is a picture of our salvation. All of this, Christ secured for us by His work on the cross! Salvation is nothing less than the redemption of all that we are back to all that He is. So – here we are – in this in-between time. For those of us who have trusted in the saving work of Jesus on our behalf, we live between new birth – and earthly death. We live between justification and glorification. Jesus has secured our salvation for us. He is actively saving us, right now, as we live in, and love, and follow after Him. And some days – it is so hard. And other days, it is more amazing than we ever dreamed possible! Where are we as we labor and wait between new birth and earthly death, between justification and glorification? Why does it feel like this?

Leonard is the author of two books - Follow Me: Scriptural Reflections on Living as a Disciple of Jesus, which contains thirty-one daily meditations on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and Remain in Me: Scriptural Reflections on Growing as a Disciple of Jesus, which contains thirty-one daily meditations on Jesus' Last Supper Discourses.

Next What Jesus accomplished on the cross If you can grasp the significance of what Christ accomplished for you in His Death on the Cross, your life will never be the same. That single revelation will open you up to a whole new world of limitless possibilities. You will have a new energy and life driving to make a difference in this world. But we have all loved other things more. This is what sin isâ€”dishonoring God by preferring other things over him, and acting on those preferences. The seriousness of an insult rises with the dignity of the one insulted. Not to punish it would be unjust. It was just; we were guilty. There was only one way to be free: This is why the Bible teaches that getting right with God is not based on law-keeping: Our only hope is having the blood and righteousness of Christ credited to our account. To reconcile us to God The reconciliation that needs to happen between man and God goes both ways. He took the steps we could not take to remove his own judgment by sending Jesus to suffer in our place: Reconciliation from our side is simply to receive what God has already done, the way we receive an infinitely valuable gift. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we receive salvation and forgiveness. The Bible says we also receive justification, redemption, reconciliation, atonement, propitiation, and regeneration. Each of these theological terms expresses wonderful truths about the blessing we receive when Jesus becomes our Savior. Salvation and forgiveness, while related, are not exactly the same. Salvation also includes a more immediate deliverance from the power of sin in this life. Sin has lost its dominion over the saved ones Romans 6: Faith in Jesus Christ rescues us from the empty and meaningless life described in Ecclesiastes and provides us with a life that is abundant and fruitful John Forgiveness of sin is analogous to financial debt being erased. When God forgives us of our sins, we are free. Our sins are wiped out. God will never hold them against us Psalm Salvation and forgiveness are closely related. There is no salvation without forgiveness. In the Old Testament, the priests would sacrifice lambs, goats, etc. These sacrifices did not remove sin but was only a covering for sin. Also this sacrifice was not significant to remove the stain of sin. But since Christ shed His blood, our sin are removed from our account.

Chapter 8 : What Did Jesus Christ Accomplish With His Death

Note that Mario clearly denies that Christ took upon Himself our sins, taking them to the cross, suffering the punishment of death that we sinners deserved.

To use it in other ways, please let me know via email I am trying out Google Ads. I never know what is going to show up here, so The Accomplishments of Jesus on the Cross The title of this study seems a little ambitious; after all, a full explanation of all that Jesus accomplished with His death and resurrection would be--well, an accomplishment. Since this is part of a series on sin, the focus of this study is specifically on how the Cross affected sin, its chief practitioner, and its hold on us. When mankind first sinned, God had this to say to the tempter, Satan: In this verse, the word "seed" refers to Jesus. Remember that Satan was taking the form of a serpent, most likely a snake. Satan did bruise the heel of Jesus in that he had Jesus put to death. However, his proximity to the heel was only due to the fact that the heel was coming close to his head for the purpose of crushing it. In essence, his attack on the life of Jesus backfired on him. This is not the only time that has happened, and in fact, many Christians have stories of how God has taken something which was meant for harm and used it for good. As children of God, the enemy often will try and attack us, and the attacks will come back to haunt him. His plan to kill Jesus is what led to the Resurrection, which made it possible to defeat sin once and for all. There two parts to this event, of course: The death of Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice for all time, which paid for the sins of each and every one of us, and which made it possible to be in the presence of a perfect and sinless God. In addition to His death on the Cross, there was the Resurrection. All the plans of Satan could not keep Jesus in the tomb. The power to defeat death was so strong that even other dead people came out of the graves: He defeated death, so the dead rose. That was the immediate result. Better for us is the long-term result: He defeated death in our lives also. His death released us from the penalty of sin, and His resurrection released us from the power of sin. Stop and meditate on that for a moment. Sin has been defeated. This is a vital truth which, when you write it onto your heart and apply it to your Christian walk, is very powerful. He knows he has been defeated, but he wants to keep you from knowing it as well, as it is that knowledge which keeps you walking upright and focused on your Creator. During his time on the earth, Jesus defeated Satan in 3 major ways: He managed to live a sinless life, even in times of great temptation. In His Resurrection, He conquered death. He will cast Satan into Hell for all eternity. The next time Satan accuses you, remind him of who you are in Christ. Remind him of his own threefold defeat. The next time you have the opportunity to sing "Victory in Jesus", have an attitude of thanksgiving for the fact that He is the victor! Please send an email to james middletree.

Chapter 9 : What Did Jesus's™ Resurrection Accomplish For Us? – Gateway

On the cross, Jesus became the worst of what you are – a pedophile, an addict, a self-righteous Pharisee, a pervert, a liar, a cheater, etc. He became the most despicable, deplorable, disgusting person on the face of the earth – and so the Father had to turn his face from him.

Your browser does not support the audio element. It is probably one of the most profound passages in all the New Testament. It has been called "the holy of holies of Scripture," and volumes have been written about this one chapter alone. It was here that our Lord began his prayer. It is evident that he prayed aloud in order that the disciples might hear what he had to say to the Father. After they had entered the Garden he withdrew from the disciples and went off by himself and prayed in private to the Father. But here his prayer is public, so that we might hear his communion. The prayer falls into three general divisions, which we will take in three separate messages, as we attempt to get as much as we can from the depths of this prayer, although, as John R. Stott says so eloquently, "The best we can do is but to paddle in its shallows. The introduction to the prayer is given in the first two verses: When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify thee, since thou hast given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom thou hast given him. But you notice that our Lord immediately adds, "that the Son may glorify thee. This is always the ultimate purpose for all existence: Your life has no value except as it glorifies God. As we have seen earlier in this discourse, to glorify someone, means to manifest or display their hidden virtue or wisdom or power or beauty, to bring out that which is hidden away in them. And here our Lord is asking that he be glorified, i. If you read this, you can see that the major work of all three Persons in the Godhead -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- is to display the mutual glory of one another. Our Lord now tells us why he needs this additional glory. The Father had already glorified him, and would glorify him again in his death. But the Lord, evidently, is looking on beyond the cross. There is something very significant here. Our Lord is pointing out that, in his resurrection and ascension, he will have, and does have, power over all flesh. That means he is in charge of all things. As he himself said just before he ascended to the Father, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me," Matthew The writer of Hebrews says that the Son upholds the universe by the word of his power Hebrews 1: So here it is evident Jesus is aware that he is Lord over all the universe. Jesus is Lord, whether men know it or not. That means he controls all the events of history -- and all the ordinary events of our circumstances, our everyday lives. I have to believe that he allowed me to slip from a ladder yesterday and injure my foot because of some value he knew the experience would have for me. And I do believe that. I believe that all events are ordered by the Lord. He uses even the animosity and the hatred of Satan against our race in order to accomplish his purposes and his will. Yesterday Bob Larson and Dick Hillis gave us a very illuminating and helpful study on China -- what China is doing these days, where it is going, so far as anyone can tell, and what China is like today. He describes in detail how he would use him to put down nations and overthrow thrones and overpower kingdoms, though Cyrus did not know him personally. Bob drew a very vivid parallel between Cyrus and Mao Tse-Tung, illustrating the fact that God is using Mao in China and in the world to accomplish his purpose. This is what our Lord means when he says here that he has power over all flesh, over all the nations -- power to regulate their affairs, power to raise them up and put them down, power to shut doors so that a nation can be closed off from hearing the gospel in order to sharpen its desire for it, while other nations are allowed to be open to hear the gospel. All the events of history, all the events reported in our newspapers -- including Watergate -- have been allowed by the Lord as he regulates and runs the affairs of earth, in order, as he says here, to give eternal life to all those whom God has given him. In other words, the focal point of all human history is right here. Every event finds its significance only as it contributes in one way or another to the great task God has come into the world to do: By virtue of the power he has to regulate the affairs of human history, he gives eternal life to those whom the Father calls and brings to the Son. Now, that is the Christian world view, and I think we need continually to bear it in mind these days -- Jesus is Lord. This is not merely looking forward to a day when he will come again and reign as Lord; he already reigns as Lord over all the affairs of

earth, and he is bringing them to the culmination which the Scriptures describe. Here he is aware of that fact, and, in order to do this, he says, he needs additional glory. Notice what eternal life is. Have you ever tried to define it? You say you were given eternal life. What do you mean? That you are going to be living in heaven forever? That is a phase of it, but that is not really what it is. What does it mean to have eternal life? Jesus defines it for us: That is eternal life -- the knowledge of a Person. After all, this is the way many things in life are. For example, many of you are married, some for many years. Is it just two people living together in a house, sharing the same salary, raising children, washing dishes and making beds, and expressing a little sex? Is that all that marriage is? Marriage is the knowledge of a person. That is what makes marriage rich and full. That is why many marriages grow stale. This process ceases, and people do not continue learning more and more of what is in another person. So many couples come to me who think that they have arrived, that they have found out all there is to know about each other, and so their marriage appears to them dull and boring. The knowledge of a person is an infinite undertaking. What makes human life rich is the discovery of what is in one another, who we are, and the sharing of it. And what makes eternal life worth the living is the discovery of God, the knowledge of him. And this is the great gift which only Jesus Christ can give. Notice how exclusive is his claim. It is Jesus who says, "No man can come to the Father but by me," John Those of us who are Christians must never give that doctrine up. We must never be willing to put any other approach to God on the level of Jesus Christ. We must never say that any person other than Jesus can lead men to God. For Jesus himself says that this is the case. It is he who points out that, of all men who have ever appeared on earth, only he has the power to give the knowledge of God, and of himself, to human beings. This is what the gift of eternal life consists of. Notice how God works within the Godhead. There is amazing reciprocity of action here. The Father gives the Son power over all flesh. Then he calls out of humanity those whom he wants. Then he brings them to the Son, and the Son gives them the right to know God and the right to know Himself. There is an interplay of activity back and forth. Did you ever think of yourself as called by the Father? I think many of us are so caught up with our human experience of Christ that we forget God must call us before we even can come to him. As Jesus himself put it in John 6, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him," John 6: These desires we have to find out what life is all about, this hunger for forgiveness which awakens within us, our longing for fulfillment, the desire to have questions about the future answered, all of these are part of the drawing of the Father, by the Spirit -- bringing us to the place where Jesus alone can give us gifts of eternal life. Have you come to that place? Now Jesus specifies the nature of the glory which he requires to complete this work: He had laid them aside when he came into the world, taking upon himself the limitations of humanity. I think it is so helpful for us to realize that when our Lord was here he did not go around showing people how God behaved; he showed them how man behaved -- man indwelt by God, as God intended man to be. And all that you see in Jesus, during the days of his flesh, is a perfect humanity. His deity was hidden. Now he is asking that the Father will restore to him that expression of deity which was properly his before the world was made. By this he is praying for the resurrection and the ascension to follow -- that the Father would raise him from the dead in glory, and then later cause him to ascend to heaven to be with him as he was before the world was made. He needs this in order to perform the work of giving eternal life to all those whom the Father would bring to him out of every succeeding generation. It is as God that he gives us eternal life. There is a tremendous lesson here about prayer. Yet when the hour comes Jesus asks the Father to do this. He prays for this glory which was already promised to him. This helps us a great deal in understanding prayer. Many people say to me, "Why should I pray? God has already programmed my life.