



You're free to go!

Just when you thought it can't be done - it's already

been paid

In previous chapels we talked about two important truths that pertain to every one of us:

- 1) You and I were created for a *relationship* with God.
- 2) Our sin separated us from that *relationship*.
- 3) There is nothing that we can do to reconcile this *relationship* on our own.

Faced with the impossibility of reconciling the relationship on our own, there must be something outside of ourselves that must reconcile the relationship on our behalf.

Key Truth: Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin.

The penalty of sin was death.* Death separates and makes relationship with God impossible. When the Bible speaks of death, it speaks primarily of separation. When we die physically, our spirit is separated from our body. In similar fashion, when we died spiritually because of sin, our spirit was separated from God's Spirit. "*But your iniquities [or sin] have made a separation between you and your God.*" (Isaiah 59:2).

As we have seen last week, all of us are affected: we all fall short of the creative design. With the gap between us and God being *insurmountable* and with us being *incapable* of doing anything of our own to overcome it, God had to come up with a solution. His solution: Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. His sacrifice made reconciliation possible. "*For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life*" (Romans 5:10).

The reason Jesus came, lived, and died is so that the justice of God (sin demands punishment) and the mercy of God (the Judge's prerogative) can meet. There is no other plan, no other means, no other solution than the one that He offered. It can only be on His terms.

** read through the passages on the back of this page to take a closer look at what the Bible says has taken place.*

*Jesus died a **substitutionary** death
by which He diverts a punishment thought to be otherwise deserved by human sinners*

Make it personal:

- * What's your reaction to the *impossibility* of doing anything in our own power to "fix what has been broken"?
- * According to what you have seen today, what does Jesus' death mean for your life *today*?
- * Has there been a point in your life when you have come to realize that all your striving is simply not enough?
- * What thoughts run through your head when you think about the fact that Jesus died in *your* place?



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