

Why did Jesus die 23rd March

Powerpoint Title slide

Rom 5:6-9 & 1 Cor 6:9-11

PRAY

Why did Jesus die?
Have you ever thought about that
- why did Jesus have to die?

I remember when I was a kid
and I heard about what happened leading up to Jesus' death
his crucifixion on the cross.
It just seemed so wrong
- that such a good, innocent man would die
the ultimate betrayal of justice
could Jesus' death have been prevented?

What if Judas hadn't have betrayed Jesus?
What if Pontius Pilate had had the guts to not condemn an innocent
man to death?

Then perhaps, Jesus would not have died.

Actually, as you look through the account leading up to Jesus' death
there are heaps of circumstances
that if changed,
might have saved Jesus from death.

But... these things miss the point.
Why?

Because, Jesus was not tricked into dying.
He didn't fall into some trap
He was not outsmarted or overpowered

you see, Jesus actually *chose* to die.
He planned to die.
and then made sure that he would actually die.

Why did he chose to die?

Well, the Bible tells us why
It tells us why in many parts of the Bible
but today we will just look at two of those places

Let's look at our first passage:

Rom 5⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

This passage tells us very clearly why Jesus Christ
- Jesus the Messiah, God's chosen one
died.

vs 6 – while we were still powerless – Christ died for the ungodly.

Vs 8 – while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

What does this mean?

That we were powerless?

That we were sinners?

and why was this a problem?

And why did God care enough about this so that Jesus died to solve the problem?

Firstly – what was the problem?

In vs 6, it says that we were powerless that means that we, human beings were in some situation that we were unable to get ourselves out of. But what was that situation?

vs 8 tells us – we were sinners.

What does that mean – sinners?

It basically means that we are people who do the wrong thing instead of doing what is right, we do what is wrong and a little bit later, we'll look more specifically at what it actually is to do wrong.

- it's an important question, because not everyone agrees on what is right and what is wrong.

But what we can see from this passage is that we had a problem and that problem is sin we are stuck in sin doing the wrong thing

and we are helpless to get ourselves out of that situation. This passage also tells us the consequences of being in this situation

vs 9 tells us that we needed to be saved from God's wrath.

In other words

we have a problem

a sin problem

the consequences of that problem

is that God is angry with us because we do the wrong thing
and that when we die
– we will have to give an account our wrongdoings to God
and it won't be pretty.

God is just – he always does the right thing
He cannot turn a blind eye to sin, to wrongdoing

and so because we are helplessly stuck in our sins
we will be declared guilty
We will come under God's eternal wrath
which means an eternity of pain in hell.

That's a big problem
especially as *we* are helpless to do anything about it
but *God* could do something about it.
he could rescue us,
save us
deliver us
but the only way he could do that
is by Jesus taking the punishment that was due to us
and he did that by dying on the cross.

That my friends, is why Jesus died
it's because we were helplessly stuck in our sins
guilty of doing the wrong thing
with the threat of a future trial before God
and being declared guilty
coming under God's judgement and punishment
of eternity in hell

but God sent Jesus Christ
Jesus who is God's Son,
actually, God himself
Jesus, who has never done anything wrong

Jesus, who is completely innocent
and therefore who is qualified to stand in our place
and to die for us,
to take the punishment for our sins
instead of us having to take it.

But why would he do that?
why would he care enough to do that?
Because, as it says in vs 8:

8. God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

It's because he loved us.

so the reason why Jesus chose to die
is because we were stuck in our sin
powerless, helpless to get ourselves out of that terrible state
of which there was only one possible consequence
- God's judgement,
a verdict of guilty and an eternity in Hell.

Jesus, because he loved us so much, died for us
taking for himself the punishment that was meant for us.

There's another passage of Scripture that also deals with this, in
some more detail.

It's in 1 Corinthians chapter 9.
The context is interesting...

Powerpoint with Corinth and Rome

This is a letter that Paul is writing to the church in the Greek city of
Corinth.

The church in Corinth was not exactly the model church
it was full of problems
and one of the biggest problems was that there was a lot of sin in the
church
that is, many of the church members were still doing the wrong thing
still living immoral lives
they knew that Jesus had died for their sins
and so they thought
well if he's died for our sins
then that means we can keep on sinning,
doing whatever we like, right?

Wrong.

Paul sets them straight.

Let's read on:

1 Corinthians 6⁹ Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Verse 9 is quite direct: wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God.

That means that people who do the wrong thing

- after they die
- they will not live in God's kingdom

But just in case you missed, he says it again,
but in the second case he comes up with a very specific list of sins

And he begins this list with a very interesting statement:
“Do not be deceived.”

What does he mean?
How can we be deceived?

I think Paul is talking about two ways we can be deceived.

Firstly – we can be deceived into thinking that Christians can still go on sinning and that provided we have our life insurance of believing in Jesus we’ll be okay and God will cover over our sin.

In a sense
– that’s true
but in another sense, it’s not

Jesus dying for our wrongdoing
paying the price for the things we do wrong
does not mean we can continue doing wrong!
Saying the sinner’s prayer is not like a permanent get-out-of-jail free card that means you can do whatever you like.
If we think it is
– then Paul says
- we are deceived.

But I think there is another way we can also be deceived
and the way we can be deceived is in having the wrong idea about what sin actually is.
having the wrong idea about what is right
and what is wrong.

You see, straight after Paul says, “do not be deceived”, Paul spends the rest of verses 9 and 10 listing off a number of very specific sins.

That's because one way we can be deceived is not having the right idea of what sin actually is.

The problem when we talk generally about sin – wrongdoing is that it's not specific enough.
and when it's not specific enough
then we make up our own ideas of what is right and wrong.

What is right and wrong is then decided by the culture by the point of time in history that you might live in.

Powerpoint Roman villa

For example,
if you lived in the Roman Empire in about 50 AD,
such as in Rome or Corinth where these letters were written to
most people thought there was nothing wrong with having slaves
nothing wrong with sleeping around
either with the opposite or the same sex
nothing wrong with leaving unwanted babies out on the street to
die.
that was the norm back then
it was expected.

Powerpoint Slave Auction house in Atlanta

And if you lived 200 years ago in the deep south of America
most white people didn't think there was anything wrong with
owning black slaves
- it was perfectly legal
and you could pretty much do with them what you wanted
because they were your property.

Powerpoint Tasmanian colonial poster

and here in Australia

200 years ago

many people didn't think there was anything wrong with forcing

Aboriginal people off their land

and many people didn't even think it was wrong to kill them in order to get their land.

Powerpoint Arbeit Macht Frei

80 years ago, in Germany

most people didn't think it was wrong to evict Jews from their homes

send them to concentration camps

and those who knew what was happening thought that killing them was the right thing to do.

Powerpoint African house in South Africa

40 years ago in South Africa

most white people didn't think it was wrong to treat some people far worse than themselves,

based on the colour of their skin

Powerpoint Parliament House

And in our time, right here in Australia

many people think there is nothing wrong in killing an unborn baby

and today, most Aussies think sleeping around

whether with the opposite sex or the same sex

is perfectly okay and is in fact normal.

So that leads to the question:

who decides what is right and wrong?

Society? culture? the media?

whoever has the loudest voice?

The Bible's answer is none of those.

Powerpoint Bibles

The Bible's answer is that God decides.

And as you read through the Bible
it is very specific about what is right and what is wrong.
And this list in 1 Corinthians is just one list of some of the things that
are wrong

Powerpoint 1 Cor 6:9-10

The reason why I have chosen this particular list today is that I think
it is short,
concise
and it pretty much covers many of the major sins we as human
beings have grappled with throughout the ages
- including our own time.

In today's Australian culture
you could even divide these sins into two groups:
the sins in verse 9 are those sins which people outside the church
often don't recognise as sins.

And the ones in verse 10, I say to my shame
are often sins that the the church seems to ignore and stay silent on.

So – let's get specific.

The first sin on this list is "sexually immoral".
This is a general category that covers any sort of sexual activity
outside marriage
including two of the others sins listed on this list:

adulterers and men who have sex with men.

Adultery is when a married person has sex with someone who is not their spouse.

And “men who have sex with men” is also pretty plain to understand in the Greek, there are actually two words here, which describe the passive and active partners in the homosexual act.

I’m sorry for being so graphic

- but Paul is also graphic here

he doesn’t mince words

why?

because he wants us to know, plainly and clearly

what we should not do.

what sin actually is.

And he had to be direct

because in Corinth at that time

any form of sexual activity was considered acceptable

most men slept with their wives,

but also with prostitutes

and also with their male slaves

- who were often adolescents.

that was the cultural environment of their time

it was normal

– it was even worse than our time –much worse

But our culture today is becoming more and more like the

Corinthians

Most Australians today

think that it is normal for unmarried people to sleep together

and can see nothing wrong with that at all.

But the Bible tells us that this is wrong.

Most Aussies today
think that homosexuality is fine, that it's good.
and that's it's actually wrong to tell someone that it's wrong.

We have to be careful that as Christians
who are a small minority in this country
that we are not influenced by the morals and ethics of the society
around us
when those morals and ethics are the opposite of God's commands.

Friends – God is serious about sexual morality
sex is great, it's a gift from God
but it's only for within heterosexual marriage.

But you know
important as sexual sins are
they are not the only sins on this list.
And my fear, brother and sisters
is that as Christians
we often *only* focus on these sexual sins
and hardly ever speak out about the other sins on this list.

let's have a look at those other wrong things.

the second sin listed is "idolatry"

The Graeco-Roman world that Paul lived in
was riddled with the worship of many many false gods and
goddesses.

Most people believed in a multitude of gods and spiritual beings that
influenced the course of their daily lives.

And let's be honest
– in modern western society
we don't have that issue
or do we?

Go to many artsy shops
or bookshops
or garden shops
or just look in people's gardens.

Statues of buddhas,
belief in horoscopes
lucky charms
astrology – your lucky stars,
the new age
– which really is a re-packed version of Hinduism with its many
gods

These are all forms of idolatry.

Many of us have dabbled in those things
but the Bible says they are sin.

Now let's get on to the sins of verse 10

thieves – and a little bit later – swindlers
refer to similar sins
one just being a more violent way of stealing
and the other a more sneaky way.

but either way,
they involve taking things that aren't yours
defrauding others
it includes things like cheating your customers
charging them for work you didn't actually do

taking stuff from the office that's not yours
or not working as long as you wrote down on your timesheet

fiddling your taxes

– doing or encouraging cash jobs
anything where you might make some dishonest gain
at someone else's expense.

They too are sins – the wrong thing in God's eyes.

As is greed, mentioned as the second sin in verse 10.

What is greed?

It's wanting what you don't have
what you aren't entitled to
more than you really need.

In our western, materialistic culture
greed is a big temptation for us all
and it's a fine line between being aspirational and being greedy
and probably each of us needs to examine our own hearts on this
matter

but we do need to take greed for what it is

– sin
– and something that threatens to disqualify us from God's kingdom.

It's not easy going through this list is?

I'm realise I'm guilty on many of these, and we haven't even finished.
Two more to go!

drunkards are also mentioned

that's people who who drink too much alcohol

and the last one that we haven't covered yet

– slanderers.

This means someone who spreads things that are not true
- especially about other people
someone who puts other people down
and it also means someone who is abusive, or a bully.

We are told not to do that.

Do you put people down?
Do you bully people in the workplace? At school?
Do you abuse your neighbours
Do you spread untruths about other people?
what do you post on Facebook or other forms of social media?

Before you put something on facebook or other social media
or re-post something
think twice
- is it true?
are you really sure it's true?
is it putting someone down?
would it unnecessarily offend someone or some group of people?
could it be slander – one of the sins mentioned in this lists?

So, now that we've finished going through this list
- how did you go with that list of sins?

You know – it gets harder
- because these are only just *some* of the wrong things we can do

and also,

if we go back to Jesus' teaching on the Sermon on the Mount
it's not just *doing* those things that makes you a sinner
it's planning to do them as well, desiring to do them.

Oh – how far short of God's standards do we fall!

what hope do we have?

As I read that list I can see that I have done many of those things on that list

if not in action, at least in thought and desire.

I'm pretty sure that all of us here are in the same boat.
guilty.

Powerpoint Romans 5:6-8

or as the passage in Romans says

- absolutely powerless, totally helpless
we are totally lost in our sins,
in doing the wrong things.

which is why God demonstrated his love for us – while we were still sinners,

Powerpoint with more words highlighted

Christ died for us.

Christ died for us, who were ungodly.

And that is why Paul is able to say in 1 Cor 6:11,

Powerpoint 1 Cor 6:9-11

1 Cor 6:11a And that is what some of you were.

Notice the past tense

That is what some of you *were*.

past tense.

And then to press home the point, he continues:

Powerpoint as above but with rest of vs 11 also highlighted

1 Cor 6:11b But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Hallelujah!

But notice

Jesus does not die for our sins
just to save us from the the *consequences* of our sin
but he dies for our sins
to free us from sin itself
so that we stop sinning!

so that we no longer are sexually immoral
no longer idolators
no longer adulterers or homosexual
no longer theiving and swindling others
no longer greedy
no longer drinking too much alcohol
no longer slanderers
– bullying and being abusive to others.

Not that we are perfect.

Other parts of Scripture tell us
that we will struggle with sin our whole lives

but the thing is
because Jesus died for our sins
and through the help and power of God's Holy Spirit
we are changing
we are overcoming

even though from time to time we may falter and stumble
we are not like we were before

we have the Holy Spirit
who works with us so that we as we walk with God
we can overcome sin more and more in our lives.

Friends, these are important truths
and another question for us today is
how do people know these truths?
How do people
not just in Australia

Powerpoint montage of people from various countries

but all over the world
know that they are helplessly lost in their sin?
how do they find out what sin is?
- that is, what God says sin is
- and not just what they or their culture think it is.

how do they know that Jesus came and died for them too?
how to they know why Jesus died?

In Australia it can sometimes be hard to forget that not everyone has
the same access to the Gospel that we have
or has the same access to God's word – the Bible – that we have.

On your way to church this morning
- how many churches did you drive past?
Among your friends, family, work colleagues and other people you
know
how many are Christians?
On your bookshelf at home

how many Bibles do you have?

What if you lived in a country
or among a people
and you had never seen a church in your life
you had never met a Christian in your life
you had never seen a Bible in your life
and even if you could get hold of a Bible
it was in a language you could not understand?

Does that sound unlikely to you?
actually it's not unlikely
those people who have no access to the Bible or the Gospel
aren't just limited to a few isolated tribes in a remote jungle
somewhere

but they inhabit some of the mega-cities of Asia and even Europe
they inhabit some of the vast territories across the world
especially in Eurasia where I work.

in fact
there are two billion people in the world today
who are what they call "unreached"
that is, they have never heard a clear presentation of the Gospel in
their lifetime

Powerpoint 7000 languages

There are also 2000 languages
spoken by about 180 million people
who have absolutely no Scripture in their language

and another 1000 languages
who have only bits and pieces of the Bible in their language
and a further 1600 who only have the whole NT
but not the whole Bible.

When Jesus rose from the dead
he told those of us who know the Gospel
to go and tell those who don't have the Gospel
about why Jesus died.

And friends
that's why I work in Bible translation
why I work in mission

it's to help bring God's word
and the great news about Jesus
and why he died

to people who don't know these things.

At GBC Corinda
you are involved with that too
as you pray and support me and others
and also get involved yourself
both here in Australia and abroad
you are also helping to get God's word to those who don't have it.
Thank you for that.

[Powerpoint Newsletter signup sheet](#)

But keep going in your efforts to spread the good news of Jesus the
Messiah.

keep praying
and if you'd like to stay in touch with the work I do
please sign up for my newsletters
- sign up sheet out the back (or wherever it is)

But also think and pray about what more you can do

even though people in Australia have better access to the Bible and the Gospel that many others do
there are still many people right here in Brisbane
who need to hear the Gospel
you can tell them why Jesus died

Powerpoint Missions slide

And maybe some of you here
can take a further step
and do we have done
and get involved with taking the Gospel to those overseas who have limited access to the Gospel

if you'd like to hear more about the practicalities of doing that
there will be an missionary information evening tonight
at 5pm at Holland Park – be there!

Powerpoint Why did Jesus die? Romans 5

In summary

all of us have been sinners
helpless

but if you have repented of your sin
that is, admitted your sin
resolved to change and then called out to Jesus the Messiah in your
helpless, hopeless state
then through the cross of Christ
and the power of the Holy Spirit

he cleanses you from your sin
and gives you the power to change and live more and more in the
way He calls us to live.

And if you are here today
and you have never repented of your sins
that is, have never turned away from your sins
if you have not acknowledged your helpless state
that you are lost in your sins
that is, lost in your wrongdoing
and you realise that on that day
the Judgement Day
you will be helpless before God's judgement

then there is hope for you
as there was for me,
 all those years ago, when I too realised my helpless state and
cried out to God.

You too can cry out to God
turn away from your sin
and turn towards God
trust in Jesus
and he will save you and rescue you from your sins
deliver you from God's judgement
and He will change your life.

Jesus will do that for you.
After all, that's the reason he died.

PRAY

Discussion Questions

1. Brainstorm and write down as many reasons you can think of for why Jesus had to die.
2. What are the consequences of Paul's description of us in Romans 5:6-9?
3. What does the kind of person you are say about someone who's willing to die for you?
4. Why does Paul say not to be deceived in 1 Corinthians 6:9?
5. How should right and wrong be defined?
6. How does that list make you feel?
7. Why do you think that sexual sins are so prominent on this list?
8. Consider the infamous graphic on the next page. How does it compare to 1 Corinthians 6:9-11?
9. What's the difference between being aspirational and greedy? A thief and a swindler?
10. How does this list relate to the Corinthians and how does it relate to us (1 Corinthians 6:11)?
11. What is an unreached person?