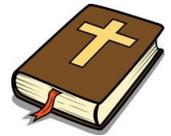


# People Need Church

The church Christ died to establish is composed of His people (Matthew 16:18). Jesus loved all men of all races and “tasted death” for “every man” (Hebrews 2:9). His death was the means chosen to overcome the broken fellowship between God and man, caused by sin. Because God and Christians have wonderful companionship when sins are forgiven in Christ, this fellowship provides the way for all races and people in society to be “one” with each other. All colors, economic levels, and social distinctions become “one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). The church shows the genuine oneness of God for all people.



Where can you read: “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth”?

Bonus: Who is being talked about with these words?



God’s plan to forgive all mankind IN Christ indicates there is no “respector of persons” (Acts 10:34) as far as our creator is concerned. Jesus is our “peace, who made both one, and broke down the wall of partition.” He abolished in His flesh the hatred, that He might create of Jews and Gentiles “one new man, so making peace.” All are reconciled to God and to one another by the cross and in one body, the church (Ephesians 2:14-16).

Today’s world demonstrates hatred between races, castes, colors, economic levels, and proud individuals. This hatred is derived from our separation from God. “The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love” (1 John 4:8). The love of God, His pure and holy love, is the only source of genuine fellowship to heal the bigotry and hatred of the world.

The good news (the gospel message) that God so loved the sinful world that He gave His only begotten Son to die for it (John 3:16) is the only basis for peace among mankind. No legislation by law makers in any nation on earth nor sincere effort by social peacemakers can solve the real problem—mankind has sinned and been separated from the holiness of God.

God is holy and pure. Mankind is not holy and pure. There is none righteous, no not one (Romans 3:10). All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Every sin must receive proper punishment (Hebrews 2:2). If God failed to punish a single sin, He would be imperfect in justice and He would be an unfair judge, partial and corrupt. He is perfect. Sin will be punished.

This shows why Jesus had to die for sinners. Because God is perfectly just, He must punish man’s sins. A perfect standard of right and wrong doesn’t remedy the sin problem of mankind. Law exposes the guilt and the need to be forgiven of sin. The only way for man to be forgiven was for God to find a way to punish sin and yet forgive mankind, the sinner—the death of Jesus is the answer!

Christ suffered in the place of sinners. He was stricken, afflicted, and smitten of God. He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. God has laid upon Jesus the sins of us all. Christ suffered sin’s penalty in man’s place.

God made Him, who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf that we might be made righteous because of Him (2 Corinthians 5:21). Christ suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18). God has given Jesus as a sin offering that perfectly satisfies.

An Ethiopian was reading of the suffering Lamb of God and encountered a preacher along the desert road (Acts 8:28-39). The preacher told him of Jesus. The man wanted to be baptized. They came upon much water. The preacher and the man both went down into the water. The man was immersed under water by the preacher. He came up out of the water rejoicing because his sins were washed away, forgiven by the blood of Jesus Christ.

This African man had been taught the truth by an evangelist of Jewish lineage—racism had been erased by the atonement message of Jesus Christ. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus erases hatred between God and man and also between people of different nationalities. Christians have all thing common in Christ’s body. Men of different races and status become new IN Christ. Proclaim the saving message of Jesus Christ to a world of sinners alienated from God and one another. Go. Make disciples. Why are you waiting?

**To all our visitors:** *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few “family” announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord’s Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us on this first day of the week!

**Bday/Anniv Lunch:** 2nd Sunday...

**Friday Bible Study:** from 7 to 8 PM.

**Ladies Day:** in Bonham, Saturday (5/4) starts 8:30AM “Riding the Fence: Ain’t No Such Thing!”

**VBS T-shirt:** Please provide size for ordering on bulletin board flyer (\$10)