

KEY THOUGHTS

- The image of God in us refers to our moral sensitivity. We are the only thing in all of creation that possesses that image, that moral sensitivity. And all of us—the whole human race of all generations—has felt that moral lack, the condemnation of sin and transgression: guilt. The rescuer rides into town on a donkey (Hosanna, save us now)
- The most important week of the most important person who ever lived.
- When Jesus died, He died to take your place. He stood where you deserve to stand. He hung where you deserve to hang. He died the death that you deserve to die. He fully, personally, and directly received on himself the punishment that you rightly deserve to receive for your own sins. But instead of you receiving this punishment for yourself, Jesus became your substitute. He took your place. He received on him the punishment that you deserve.
- You were enslaved by the curse of the law, an empty lifestyle, and all kinds of iniquity you were enslaved to sin. Sin was your master. You had to sin. You were unable to do otherwise. Jesus died to liberate you from this enslavement to sin.
- Peter teaches, "You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ. He is the atoning sacrifice- (propitiation) for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Propitiation means "to satisfy the wrath of another person by means of an offering or a gift." Reconciliation means "to restore peace between two opposing, hostile parties." By nature, every person is hostile towards God. Just like Adam and Eve in the beginning, you walked away from God. You resisted and rebelled against the good, loving and perfect will and design of God for your life. The death of Jesus, God does "all the things" that are necessary to restore your relationship to him, even though you are the one who walked away. God has provided the necessary gift on your behalf to restore your relationship to him forever. In this way, the reconciliation of the cross is more important indeed. Jesus died to restore peace between God and sinners. Paul describes this this way, "All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation" Jesus did not come to make bad people good – He came to make dead people alive. God has a deep desire to rescue us. (Jesus went to the cross to make it happen)

SCRIPTURES

- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Galatians 3:13
- Ephesians 1:7-10
- 1 John 2:2
- 2 Corinthians 5:18
- Isaiah 53:3-6
- Revelation 6:15-17

PRACTICAL & REFLECT

Some things I need to do to recapture the wonder of the mystery:

- 1. We will all have to answer the question, "what did you do with my son?"