

Searching the Scriptures / 82 / Righteousness Was Accomplished By Christ Alone / Part 2

Our Bible study today concerns how the work of righteousness is Christ’s exclusively. Let us prayerfully consider these three points:

1. Christ Alone Became a Man

2. Christ Alone Became Sin

3. Christ Alone Suffered the Equivalent of Eternal Hell 1. Christ Alone Became a Man

One of the greatest truths in the Bible is the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ—the astounding fact that God took on a human nature—like one of us. Php 2:6–8 affirms, “*Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*” John 1:14 announces, “*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*”

How can we even begin to understand this concept of eternal God becoming man? Isa 40:15; 17–18 gives us some indication of how infinitely great God is, and how infinitesimally microscopic we are, in comparison: “*Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing... All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.*” If the nations of this world are a drop of water, how big does that make you and me?

2. Christ Alone Became Sin

Even beyond the incarnation of the Lord Jesus is the incomprehensible fact that the Lord Jesus allowed Himself to become sin in order to atone for the sins of His people. In 2 Cor 5:21 we find these incredible words, “*for he [God the Father] hath made him [Jesus Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*” Mark 10:45 adds, “*For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*”

It staggers our puny imaginations when we evaluate this statement in light of the biblical principle in Acts 20:35, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive...*” John 10:18 further illustrates the fact that Christ laid down His life voluntarily: “*No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*”

3. Christ Alone Suffered the Equivalent of Eternal Hell

We have seen thus far how Christ became a man, became sin on behalf of each child of God, and now we want to examine the greatest test He still had to face—enduring the equivalent of eternity in Hell. Luke 22:44 serves to highlight the unspeakable agony that Christ had to undergo in order to accomplish the salvation of His people (the elect): “*And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*” Mat 26:39 continues, “*And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if*

it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” Psa 75:8 reveals what that “cup” contained and what was transpiring spiritually: “For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.” This refers to the “cup” of the eternal wrath of God.

Christ’s sufferings commenced in the Garden of Gethsemane, which means “winepress”, where he drank that cup for each Christian. Isa 63:1–5 helps us to gain a deeper appreciation of what this means: *“Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.”*

I want to leave you with this final thought today: Because God Almighty poured out His eternal vengeance on His own dear Son, whom He loves with an everlasting love, we can know with absolute assurance that each unsaved human being on Judgment Day *“... shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb”* according to Rev 14:10.