



God.0

THE SEARCH FOR THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF GOD'S CHARACTER

SESSION

6



1. I like scary movies.
2. I think I have a pretty good understanding of why Jesus had to die for our sins.
3. In some ways, I feel guilty that Jesus took my place on the cross.
4. I have not felt comfortable questioning why God would choose to sacrifice His own Son.
5. At some point in my life, I've viewed God the Father as my judge, and Jesus as my defense attorney.
6. Satan has never truly had authority and ownership of this planet and its inhabitants.

yes
&
no

dig
deeper

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

∞ You understand the plan of salvation, right? Then:

- Why did Jesus have to die?
- Why was death necessary? Couldn't there have been other alternatives?
- Who decided that Jesus' death would save us and make a way for us to go to heaven?

THE PRICE:

1 John 2:2 *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. (KJV)*

1 John 4:10 *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (KJV)*

WHAT IS A "PROPIATION?"

Propitiate - win or regain the favor of (a god, spirit, or person) by doing something that pleases them: the pagans thought it was important to propitiate the gods with sacrifices. -Oxford English Dictionary

SINNERS WERE BOUGHT FROM SOMEONE WHO SET THE PRICE:

1 Cor. 6:20 *You were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (NIV)*

1 Cor. 7:23 *You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. (NIV)*

dig deeper ...continued

THE DEVIL BELIEVES THAT HE OWNS WHAT GOD WANTS:

MATTHEW 4:8, 9 *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." (NIV)*

° How do these verses display how Satan views his ownership of humanity, and how does this connect with his original sin?

BEFORE JESUS PAID THE PRICE, THE DEVIL CLAIMED ALL WHO DIED AS HIS OWN:

Jude 9 *But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (NIV)*

WOULD GOD REALLY PAY A RANSOM TO SATAN?

Mark 10:45 *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (NIV)*

William Barclay, *The Mind of Jesus*, p. 275

"In the ransom interpretation of the work of Jesus, the ransom is offered in some sense to the devil; in the sacrifice and substitution interpretations of the work of Jesus the sacrifice is offered to God. The difficulty here is that in some sense God and Jesus are opposed. God demands sacrifice; Jesus gives sacrifice. The result of this is that almost inevitably Jesus is seen in terms of love, and God is seen in terms of justice. That is why a great many people who have been brought up on these interpretations either consciously or unconsciously love Jesus but fear God, and feel at home with Jesus but estranged and remote from God. These interpretations have the effect of setting God and Jesus over against each other.

***Desire of Ages*, Chapter 79**

God was "Pleased" in the Sense that the Issue was Settled

"His [Satan's] administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken."

1. How does this image of God affect you personally? How does this emotionally impact your relationship with Him?
2. What will you do this week to live out your life as someone who has had a ransom paid for your freedom?
3. How does this change my perspective of God's character?

my
prayer