

**Text:** Romans 6:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:15

**Title:** He Died

**Truth:** We examine four New Testament passages that say "He Died."

**Date/Location:** Friday April 2, 2021 at FBC

## Introduction

I stumbled upon an interesting search result in my studies last week: the phrase "he died," while common in the Old Testament, only occurs a handful of times in the English New Testament (NKJV). Two are from parallel passages that come from the mouths of the Sadducees, who posed a question to Jesus about a series of brothers who died, in an attempt to discredit the doctrine of resurrection (Mark 12:21, Luke 20:30). One is in the historical narrative of Jacob, who died after he went down to Egypt (Acts 7:15). The other two are the following:

Romans 6:10 For *the death* that **He died**, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God.

2 Corinthians 5:15 and **He died** for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

The NIV has the above two, and uses the phrase in John 8:53 about Abraham. Then, it translates it twice more:

Mark 15:39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how **he died**, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

1 Thessalonians 5:10 **He died** for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

These four statements about the death of Jesus cover a lot of ground.

### I. He Died in a Remarkable Way: Mark 15:39

Mark 15:37-39 NIV With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.<sup>38</sup> The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how **he died**, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

- A. In one way, the death of Christ was a normal human, physical death. It resulted in Jesus breathing his last and expiring. The spirit left the body. In a little while, the body was taken down from the cross and put into a tomb and thus buried. The soldier at the cross could clearly see that Jesus was dead. He DIED. That is the fact, perfectly well attested by history as well as Christian theology.
- B. But in another way, His death was remarkable. Not only was there a miraculous happening at the temple with the veil parting in two, but the Roman soldier who was assigned guard duty sensed something far from ordinary in this situation. It was so odd that he declared it must be true what Jesus said, that He Himself was in fact the Son of God. It appears that the soldier was convinced of who Jesus was and likely became a believer. After all, compare his confession, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!” to Peter’s similar confession in Matt. 16:16—“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
- C. But how did he draw this conclusion? What data influenced his thinking?
1. Jesus cried out with a loud voice. This was abnormal for a person in the last moments of a crucifixion. The victim was typically as weak as could be and was being asphyxiated to death.
  2. Jesus said was committing His spirit into the hands of the Father (Luke 23:46). These words were abnormal. The “criminal” was calling God his Father, and releasing his spirit to God.
  3. Jesus breathed his last. Something similar to a normal death, but different, was going on which indicated Jesus was abnormal. He released his life. It was not taken from him in quite the normal way (John 10:17-18). Not even the cruel instrument of crucifixion could extract the life of Jesus apart from His willing release of it.
  4. There was darkness over the whole land for several hours (Mark 15:33). This darkness was an expression of the wrath of God against sin borne in the person of His Son.
  5. There was a severe earthquake (Matt. 27:51-54).

D. Imagine you were standing guard at the cross, maybe even participating in affixing Jesus to the cross, and then over the course of several hours coming to the realization that the man was actually the Son of God. Perhaps you heard the declaration of Jesus, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34). Perhaps you heard the loving way that Jesus turned Mary over to John’s care (John 19:26-27). Perhaps you saw how Jesus forgave one of the criminals and said that today he would be in paradise (Luke 23:43). Perhaps you heard “It is finished!” (John 19:30) and “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34).<sup>1</sup> These events really did occur. How do you process them?

## II. He Died Once for All Time: Romans 6:10

Rom. 6:10-11 For the death that **He died, He died** to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. <sup>11</sup> Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A. The main idea again is that Christ died, and that he died one time, with the idea that it will never happen again. This one-time event is eternally effective for the salvation of sinners. He is not still upon a cross; He does not die annually; His death cannot even be re-enacted because it was a one-time unique event. He died one time for all time. It is DONE.

B. The idea is also that He died **to sin**. Christians are dead to sin as well and need to consider themselves to be that way. Sin does not have the power or sway over the Christian that it once did. Christ took sin, took God’s wrath for it, broke it, and disabled its power over His people. Yes, He died because of *sin*—your sin. He died for *sinners*. But He also died to sin, meaning “concerning” sin. In connection to sin, He died, and that frees us from a strangling relationship with sin as well.

## III. He Died that We Would Live for Him: 2 Cor. 5:15

2 Cor. 5:14-15 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; <sup>15</sup> and **He died** for all,

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sayings\\_of\\_Jesus\\_on\\_the\\_cross](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sayings_of_Jesus_on_the_cross)

that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

- A. The third **he died** phrase in the New Testament is that Christ died for sinners such that they should no longer live for themselves. Make that a bit more personalized: Christ died for you that you would no longer live for yourself, but rather live FOR Christ who died for you and rose again. Our lives should be marked by a Christ-likeness in character—in love, in service, in devotion to God, in prayer, in proclaiming the truth to others, etc. Like Christ lived, we should live.
- B. The whole business about Christ dying “for all” raises the hackles of those who hold of different theological persuasions. I am not getting into that here. Regardless of your view, I would think you should agree that Christ’s death is sufficient for the sins of every sinner in this world, and many worlds besides; but it does no good that Christ died if you reject Him by refusing to trust in Him. The benefits of His death are not passed to anyone apart from faith in Christ. And that faith is demonstrated to be real when one lives for Christ instead of living for self. So, we urge you to be reconciled to God so that you can be constituted righteous before God instead of remain in your sin and die that way.

#### **IV. He Died that We Would Live with Him: 1 Thess. 5:10**

- 1 Thess. 5:9 NIV For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 **He died** for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
- A. John 14:3 tells us that Jesus will come again to receive Christians to Himself, so that they may be (live) where He lives. 1 Thess. 4:17 “and so we will always be with the Lord.”
  - B. Whether we die beforehand or are alive at His return, no matter. In either case, we will be with Christ. That is one of the reasons or purposes for which Christ died—so that whether we are alive or dead, we will live together with Him.

C. Without His death, we would not be going to Heaven or anywhere near God or Christ for all eternity. We would only be suffering wrath. Instead, Christ suffered wrath so we could receive salvation.

## **Conclusion**

This is the gospel of Christ—**He died** for our sins and rose again from the dead. **He died** in our place, uniquely, once, so that we could live for Him and with Him. Otherwise, we live against Him and apart from Him forever. If you grasp that, you have a grasp on the Christian message.

If you do not grasp it, then do not imagine yourself to really understand Christianity or Good Friday or Easter! This is central to what these remembrance holidays are about.

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