

Small Group Discussion Guide

“reLENTless (pt. 4)” 4/13/2014

Scripture: Hebrews 9:22; Colossians 2:13-15; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10
Bottom Line: Jesus' death on the cross pays for our sin.

INTRODUCTION:

What's the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of Good Friday? Many of us do not even think of the day's significance until after it has passed if we even think about it at all. We could not get to Easter and all the wonderful joy it brings if it was not for that dark day we call Good Friday.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read Hebrews 9:22

- *Did Jesus really have to die on the cross?*

Jesus was our sacrifice. The word sacrifice has lost a lot of its significance to us. The shed blood from the sacrifice reminds us that sin leads to death. Indeed the Bible says “the wages of sin are death.” Only a perfect sacrifice (Jesus) could eternally pay for our sin. The whole point of the Old Testament sacrifices was to lead up to this point. Jesus is the greater sacrifice that redeems his people.

Read Colossians 2:13-15

- How does God triumph over evil through the Cross?

The Bible is clear that there is a real war between Satan and Jesus. Sinners have been taken captive by sin and nothing we do can free us from the power of darkness over our lives. Colossians 2:13-15 states that Jesus delivered us from sin by his death on the cross and made it impossible for the powers of darkness to hold us under sin's power.

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

We have all sinned against God and because he is holy and just, sin must be punished. The punishment of sin is known as God's judgment or wrath.

- How does the cross satisfy God's wrath?

Jesus takes the wrath of God for us by his death on the cross. If God's wrath and punishment has already been poured out on Jesus for my sins then this means I am free! Thank you, Jesus!

UNDERSTANDING HOW THE GOSPEL APPLIES TO MY LIFE:

The Bible says that "God is Love." His love is not just a feeling, it is an action. It is generous and sacrificial in that God sent his only Son to take the wrath that we deserve. You might think, "I've done a lot of bad things in my life. I'm not sure God could forgive me." Hebrews 10:10 says that Christ died for all sin. Also, 1 John 2:2 says that Jesus took the wrath of God for the sins of not just his people but for the whole world. Of course, only those who believe are the ones who are forgiven, but the point remains that Jesus' death was sufficient for everyone.

- What does the cross reveal about God's love?

- Do you think that Christ's sufferings were enough to pay for your sins?

- The Cross brings redemption to our lives. How has it brought redemption to your life?

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

Christ has redeemed you from bondage to sin and Satan. God's love is compelling (2 Cor. 5:14-15). If anyone dwells on God's love and the Cross long enough, they cannot help but be moved to respond in gratitude.

- What are some areas of your life in which you could more fully trust him?

- How does God inspire us to walk in love through the cross?

- How could you respond to God's great love today?