

BRINGING MANKIND TO GOD

Matthew 20:28; John 12:23 - 33; Hebrews 9:28

Introduction: Mankind, on its own, cannot have the relationship with God that God requires therefore God has to do everything. God came to this earth and lived among people through His Son, Jesus and revealed Himself, His thoughts, His ways, His love, His power and His desires for mankind through the life of His Son, Jesus. That still didn't bring mankind to where it needed to be in fellowship with God. There was another thing God had to do which mankind could not for mankind was still captive to sin, the world and Satan. Besides that, most who met Jesus were not very impressed with Him after a while. Something other than walking among mankind was needed. Mankind had to be freed captivity and in God's plans, it had to be a substitute made and that was the crucifixion of His Son, Jesus.

I. THE CROSS WAS THE PLACE OF THE SUBSTITUTION

1. The coming of Jesus, God in the flesh, had no redemptive value although it did bring the one who was to be the substitute for man.
2. From the very beginning Jesus knew why He had come to be among mankind.
3. Nothing surprised Jesus, nothing took Him by surprise as He knew all things.
4. Jesus mentioned a "bitter cup" when in the Garden of Gethsamane, what was that cup?
 - It was not the fact of His dying physically for all people eventually die.
 - It was being separated from God, the Father, for that would be necessary if Jesus became mankind's substitute on the cross, for while on the cross all the sin of mankind would be put upon Him, He was to take all the blame, all the punishment, all the penalties. He was to become everything that God, the Father hated.
5. Jesus' death was to do that which nobody else could ever do and that was to satisfy God's judgment, satisfy Judgment's penalty for sin and then deal with sin and Satan permanently.
6. Bringing mankind to God came not when Jesus came to earth but what Jesus did when on the cross.

II. THE CROSS IS THE DIVIDING PLACE

1. At the cross the Kingdom of Heaven is clearly separated from the kingdom of Satan.
2. At the cross darkness is separated from the Light.
3. At the cross God's Family is separated from Satan's family.

III. THE CROSS IS WHERE MANKIND WAS BROUGHT TO GOD

1. God has one major problem with mankind and that is sin.
2. God has but only one enemy and that is Satan.
3. Sin brought four consequences which Jesus Christ dealt with while on the cross:
 - guilty of sin before God - Jesus removed the guilt.
 - death because of sin - Jesus died for everyone when on the cross.
 - cursed with God's judgment - Jesus took God's judgment for every person.
 - wrath of God's anger at sin - Jesus bore God's full wrath against sin for everyone.
4. Jesus' death on the cross brought mankind victory over sin and Satan.

IV. THE CROSS REVEALS THE REAL MAN AND THE TRUE GOD

1. Man's real heart and attitude toward God was revealed by crucifying Jesus, He was hated.
2. God and His Son Jesus' love was revealed by what they did for mankind at the cross.
3. How much does God love man, how far will God go for man was clearly revealed at the cross.

V. THE CROSS IS WHERE MANKIND MEETS GOD, ON GOD'S TERMS

1. Man was separated from God because of sin, but man can now meet God and be restored but only at the cross.
2. Sin separated man from God but the blood of God's Son, Jesus, has cleansed mankind and now man can be restored to God in full fellowship as in the beginning.
3. The cross is the ONLY place where man can meet God and be restored.

VI. AT THE CROSS IS WHERE DECISIONS ARE TO BE MADE

1. The cross is not hidden from any human being, it is open to every person.
2. The cross is where mankind can cross over from separation to being accepted and be restored to full fellowship with God.
3. No human being has to spend eternity in hell for God has made the way for man to be restored to full fellowship with Him and spend eternity in God's heaven, but God has left it up to each individual to decide whether he/she wants to or not.
4. There is but one way to be restored and accepted into God's Family and that is God's way and that is through His Son, Jesus, and what happened on the Cross.

VIII. LIFE ENDS AND BEGINS AT THE CROSS

1. Sin has trapped mankind since the beginning but God's Grace, Love, and the Cross has freed mankind.
2. Mankind has been enslaved to sin and Satan but God has made the way for mankind to be freed from sin and from Satan, permanently, forever.
3. God brought to mankind the choice of being re-born into His family through what Jesus did on the Cross or rejecting Jesus and what He has done and thus remaining separated, doomed and damned for all eternity.

CONCLUSION:

1. God came to this earth and lived among mankind through His Son, Jesus.
2. God has freed mankind from sin and Satan through what Jesus did on the cross.
3. There is only God's way to be restored to fellowship with Him, no way of man will ever do.
4. The cross is the meeting place for mankind and God.
5. God withholds His love, works, freedom, release, salvation from no one but each person must choose for him/herself to come to the cross and accept God's works or not.
6. What has been your choice?