

sin by His death on the cross in order that we might be the righteousness of God in Him.

Sin demands penalty. Man cannot meet the penalty. It would require an eternity of expiation. Only God could find the answer. He sent Christ as the Lamb to take away sin.

All through the life of the Lord Jesus Christ it is clear that there was one controlling purpose, for which He had come into the world. It was to die in the place of sinful men. He alone of all who have ever lived did not deserve to die. He alone had lived a righteous life, in which no sin could be found. Like the Lamb in Exodus 12 which had to be examined for three days to be sure that there was no blemish in it, before it could be offered, He for three years walked about in Palestine and talked with people and showed openly His spotless character and His wonderful teaching. Many had seen Him, known Him, lived with Him, seen every detail of His life, yet He could face them and say, "Which of you convinceth Me of sin?" There was no flaw that they could find in Him. He was the perfect One, who having no sin and deserving no punishment for Himself, could die on the cross in the place of sinful humanity. God could have chosen to leave man in sin, but He Himself paid the penalty. He sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross as a ransom for many.

Once, in the Swiss Alps, as I climbed up a steep mountainside, a skilled guide was ahead of me. A rope was tied around him and around me so that if I should slip and fall off the side of the mountain, the guide would be able to pull me back on to the mountain, and we could continue our climb. When we were about half way up the mountain he stopped on a little ledge where it was perfectly safe, and waited until I came up to him. As we sat there together and rested I glanced at the rope. I noticed that a red thread ran through every section of it. I turned to the guide and said, "Why is this red thread in the rope?" He answered, "That is an indication that it is the best grade of English rope. When you see that red thread you know you can safely trust your life to the rope."

All through the Bible there is a red thread and it is a sign that we can safely trust our lives to it. It is the red thread of the atoning death of our Lord Jesus Christ. We find it predicted in Genesis 3:15 where it was foretold that "the seed of the woman" would bruise the serpent's head. We find it pictured over and over in the various sacrifices in the book of Leviticus. We find it predicted in many statements in the prophetic books of the Old Testament such as the wonderful Fifty-third chapter of Isaiah. The Gospels describe it. The Epistles explain how it saves us. In the book of Revelation we find frequent songs of praise to the Lamb who was slain and who has "redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation." Surely this is the red thread in the Bible which shows that we may safely trust our lives to it.

Have you looked to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation? Have you believed on Him and been born again through His blood? Have you received assurance that when He died on the cross your sins were there on Him, so that He died in your place? Or are you trusting to the filthy rags of human righteousness for your eternal salvation and trying to win your way to heaven by good works? It is impossible for any man to win his way to heaven that way. There is only one way: look to the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. "Behold, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world."