

A Leader's Guide  
to the book  
*Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die*

produced by Desiring God

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## *Introduction and Explanation*

When the apostle Paul describes something as being of “first importance,” we would do well to listen attentively. This is precisely the case in 1 Corinthians 15. What does Paul suggest to be of first importance?

I delivered to you as of first importance that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time. (1 Cor. 15:3-7)

Paul’s number one priority is the reality conveyed in the historical account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Not many people think in these categories today. We might find family, or jobs, or status, or sports, or friends, or money, or possessions, or self-esteem filling the place of first importance for the vast majority of people in the world – anything but the historical account of a man who walked the earth two thousand years ago. So why does Paul hold these things in such high esteem? The answer lies in who Jesus Christ is and what he came to accomplish. Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah, God-incarnate, the Savior of the world. In his life, death, and resurrection he built a bridge to the presence of God by accepting the punishment that we deserved and clothing us with a righteousness that he fulfilled. Scripture claims that whole hearted embracement or rejection of these truths is the difference between eternal life rejoicing in the glory of God, or eternal wrath as the just punishment for our sins. We are not playing games. We are dealing with life and death. Therefore it is of supreme importance to know and understand the historical account of Jesus Christ and the salvation he accomplished therein. Indeed, the author of Hebrews warns us by asking: “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?” (Heb. 2:3).

We do not want to “neglect so great a salvation.” We want to reflect upon and meditate upon and admire this great salvation from many different perspectives. John Piper, in *Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die*, has provided us with fifty reflections derived from Scripture on why Jesus Christ had to suffer and die.

This guide seeks to encourage further reflection on this great salvation in Christ by applying those fifty purposes to a historical framework of the past, present, and future. It aims to show a broad “History of Redemption Through Suffering.” Thus it is broken up into three major topical sections: The Past Accomplishment of Christ’s Work, The Present Experience of Christ’s Work, and The Future Consummation of Christ’s Work.

Each major section is broken down further into multiple lessons. The lessons are meant to highlight a topic relating to the work of Christ. These topics do not necessarily correspond exactly with the original main point of the chapters; instead, they are used as a springboard for further reflection. Therefore, in going through the lesson week by week, it might be helpful to first consider the main point of the chapter that John Piper is seeking to communicate, and then to consider how that point relates to the corresponding lesson topic in this guide.

Each lesson consists of a general description of the lesson topic, the chapters to be read for that lesson, along with a key quote from each of those chapters and some basic objectives for that lesson. These objectives are not meant to be exhaustive, but are meant to provide a few easily identifiable goals to work toward in each lesson. Other worthy and more valuable objectives could be added. Please feel free to do so. The same goes for the study questions provided at the beginning. These can and should be added to, but hopefully they will provide a base from which to start.

In the back of this guide we have provided a brief and hopefully concise glossary of key theological and other terms which might not be clear to those without much theological training or background.

This guide is not primarily designed to provide answers to questions; rather it is designed to help guide one's reflection and meditation on the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is designed as a challenge to view our great salvation in Christ in relation to every single aspect of life, including our past, present, and future. Most of all it is designed to raise question after question and push us to a prayerful and rigorous study of Scripture to find the answers.

May Jesus Christ be the goal we pursue in all our thought, reflection, and study. May Jesus Christ be the one in whom all our hopes and dreams and delights lie. May Jesus Christ be the glorious treasure who, when we see him for who he really is, transforms us bit by bit into more affectionate, more compassionate, more humble worshipers of God and lovers of people. And may Jesus Christ get all the glory now and forever.

# *Teaching Outline*

“Behold, I am making all things new.”  
- Revelation 21:5

## **A History of Redemption Through Suffering**

Introduction – The Christ, the Crucifixion, and the Concentration Camps  
Chapter 50 – To Show That the Worst Evil Is Meant by God for Good

## **The Past Accomplishment of Christ’s Work**

### *Salvation From, Through, and to God*

Chapter 1 – To Absorb the Wrath of God  
Chapter 21 – To Reconcile Us to God  
Chapter 24 – To Give Us Confident Access to the Holiest Place  
Chapter 25 – To Become for Us the Place Where We Meet God

### *The Work of a Perfect Savior*

Chapter 2 – To Please His Heavenly Father  
Chapter 3 – To Learn Obedience and Be Perfected  
Chapter 4 – To Achieve His Own Resurrection from the Dead  
Chapter 43 – To Unleash the Power of God in the Gospel

### *The Redemption of God’s Own Possession*

Chapter 8 – To Become a Ransom for Many  
Chapter 20 – To Deliver Us from the Present Evil Age  
Chapter 23 – So That We Might Belong to Him  
Chapter 42 – To Disarm the Rulers and Authorities

### *The Vindication of God’s Righteousness*

Chapter 9 – For the Forgiveness of Our Sins  
Chapter 10 – To Provide the Basis for Our Justification  
Chapter 11 – To Complete the Obedience That Becomes Our Righteousness  
Chapter 12 – To Take Away Our Condemnation

### *The Fulfillment of God’s Law*

Chapter 7 – To Cancel the Legal Demands of the Law Against Us  
Chapter 13 – To Abolish Circumcision and All Rituals as the Basis of Salvation  
Chapter 26 – To Bring the Old Testament Priesthood to an End and Become the Eternal High Priest  
Chapter 31 – So That We Would Die to the Law and Bear Fruit for God

## **The Present Experience of Christ’s Work**

### *A New Self*

Chapter 14 – To Bring Us to Faith and Keep Us Faithful  
Chapter 15 – To Make Us Holy, Blameless, and Perfect  
Chapter 30 – That We Might Die to Sin and Live to Righteousness  
Chapter 34 – To Enable Us to Live by Faith in Him

### *A Living Faith*

Chapter 32 – To Enable Us to Live for Christ and Not Ourselves  
Chapter 33 – To Make His Cross the Ground of All Our Boasting  
Chapter 36 – To Create a People Passionate for Good Works  
Chapter 37 – To Call Us to Follow His Example of Lowliness and Costly Love

#### *A Relationship of Love*

Chapter 5 – To Show the Wealth of God’s Love and Grace for Sinners  
Chapter 6 – To Show His Own Love for Us  
Chapter 27 – To Become a Sympathetic and Helpful High Priest  
Chapter 35 – To Give Marriage Its Deepest Meaning

#### *A Freedom and Liberty in Life*

Chapter 16 – To Give Us a Clear Conscience  
Chapter 28 – To Free Us from the Futility of Our Ancestry  
Chapter 29 – To Free Us from the Slavery of Sin  
Chapter 39 – To Free Us from Bondage to the Fear of Death

#### *A Hope for the Whole World*

Chapter 38 – To Create a Band of Crucified Followers  
Chapter 44 – To Destroy Hostility Between Races  
Chapter 45 – To Ransom People from Every Tribe and Language and People and Nation  
Chapter 46 – To Gather All His Sheep from Around the World

### **The Future Consummation of Christ’s Work**

#### *Final Victory Over Sickness and Death*

Chapter 17 – To Obtain for Us All Things That Are Good for Us  
Chapter 18 – To Heal Us from Moral and Physical Sickness  
Chapter 40 – So That We Would Be with Him Immediately After Death  
Chapter 41- To Secure Our Resurrection from the Dead

#### *Eternal Life in the Presence of God*

Chapter 19 – To Give Eternal Life to All Who Believe on Him  
Chapter 22 – To Bring Us to God  
Chapter 47 – To Rescue Us from Final Judgment

#### *Eternal Joy in the Glory of Christ*

Chapter 48 – To Gain His Joy and Ours  
Chapter 49 – So That He Would Be Crowned with Glory and Honor

## *A History of Redemption Through Suffering*

Description: History is not an endless, meaningless cycle. History is replete with meaning and purpose and progression because there is a sovereign Lord over it, working all things together according to the counsel of his will. Therefore suffering should cause astonishment and tears, yet also profound hope. Nothing communicates this peculiar connection more clearly than the crucifixion of the Son of God.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
Introduction	“The central issue of Jesus’ death is not the cause, but the purpose – the meaning” (12).
50	“The most profound thing we can say about suffering and evil is that, in Jesus Christ, God entered into it and turned it for good” (118).

### Objectives:

- To show that the display of the glory of God is the goal of all things.
- To affirm God’s sovereign rule over history.
- To affirm the horror of evil and sin and suffering, climaxing in the crucifixion of Christ.
- To introduce categories for understanding God’s sovereignty in relation to suffering and evil, primarily by understanding “that evil and suffering were Christ’s appointed way of victory over evil and suffering” (119).
- To produce hope in a God who can turn all evil for good, and faith and love for the Savior who secured that hope.

## *The Past Accomplishment of Christ's Work*

### **Salvation From, Through, and to God**

Description: Before salvation can be of lasting significance for mankind, we must first see that it is primarily about God. In salvation, God's holy wrath is appeased, his deep mercy is displayed, his sovereign power is responsible, and access to his presence and the display of his glory is the final goal.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
1	"If God were not just, there would be no demand for his Son to suffer and die. And if God were not loving, there would be no willingness for his Son to suffer and die. But God is just and loving. Therefore his love is willing to meet the demands of his justice" (20).
21	"The reconciliation that needs to happen between sinful man and God goes both ways. Our attitude toward God must be changed from defiance to faith. And God's attitude to us must be changed from wrath to mercy. But the two are not the same. I need God's help to change; but God does not need mine" (60).
24	"Without Christ the holiness of God had to be protected from us. He would have been dishonored, and we would have been consumed because of our sin. But now, because of Christ, we may come near and feast our hearts on the fullness of the flaming beauty of God's holiness" (67).
25	"When Christ died and rose again, the old temple was replaced by the globally accessible Christ. You may come to him without moving a muscle. He is as close as faith" (69).

#### Objectives:

- To provide a biblical understanding of propitiation.
- To show the need for reconciliation between man and God.
- To show the centrality and supremacy of God in salvation.
- To show our need for Christ in order for us to stand in the presence of a holy God.
- To encourage God-centered worship.

## *The Past Accomplishment of Christ's Work*

### **The Work of Our Perfect Savior**

Description: Though being fully God, Jesus Christ humbled himself by entering into world and becoming a man for the purpose of suffering and dying. This humiliation – from the exalted place of deity to the degraded place of a lowly man, a life of suffering and derision, and finally death on a cross – was the means by which Christ pleased his Father and purchased our salvation. And his work was validated by his resurrection.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
2	“For our sake God did the impossible: He poured out his wrath on the one whose submission made him infinitely unworthy to receive it. Yet the very willingness to receive it was precious in God’s sight. The wrath-bearer was infinitely loved” (23).
3	“The point is this: If the Son of God had gone from incarnation to the cross without a life of temptation and pain to test his righteousness and his love, he would not be a suitable Savior for fallen man” (25).
4	“When the Bible says, ‘If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins,’ the point is not that the resurrection is the price paid for our sins. The point is that the resurrection proves that the death of Jesus is an all-sufficient price” (27).
43	“The heart of the gospel is that ‘Christ died for our sins...was buried...was raised...and appeared to more than five hundred people’” (104-105).

#### Objectives:

- To display the manifold excellencies of Jesus Christ, our perfect Savior.
- To describe a significant function of and necessity for Christ’s sufferings.
- To review the historical record of Christ’s life and death.
- To explain the nature of the resurrection and describe how it validates Christ’s work.

## *The Past Accomplishment of Christ's Work*

### **Purchased by God**

Description: “You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19-20). As believers in Christ we have been purchased by God at the infinite cost of his own Son's life.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
8	“The ultimate captivity from which we need release is the final ‘judgment of <i>God</i> ’ ...The ransom price of this release from God's condemnation is the life of Christ. Not just his life lived, but his life given up in death” (35).
20	“When Christ went to the cross, he set millions of captives free. He unmasked the devil's fraud and broke his power” (59).
23	“Christ suffered and died that we might be set free from law and sin and belong to him” (65).
42	“Neither man nor Satan can make a charge stick. The legal case is closed. Christ is our righteousness. Our accuser is disarmed. If he tries to speak in the court of heaven, shame will cover his face” (103).

#### Objectives:

- To explain how we are not autonomous beings, but are each in the service of someone outside ourselves.
- To show the infinite cost it took for God to redeem his people.
- To show that Christ's sufferings were sufficient to propitiate God's wrath, therefore no one can or should attempt to add to the merit or worth of his payment.

## The Past Accomplishment of Christ's Work

### **The Vindication of God's Righteousness**

Description: It would be unjust for a holy God to withhold infinite punishment for sin. It would be equally unjust for God to accept sinners into everlasting blessing apart from restitution for their treason. Therefore the death of Christ, the infinitely holy Son of God, is the most glorious act in history because it upholds in perfect harmony both the righteousness and the mercy of God.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
9 <i>For the Forgiveness of Our Sins</i>	"[I]f we criminals are to go free and be forgiven, there must be some dramatic demonstration that the honor of God is upheld even though former blasphemers are being set free" (37).
10 <i>To provide the Basis for Our Justification</i>	" <i>Christ shed his blood to cancel the guilt of our crime.</i> So it says, 'We have now been justified by his blood' (Romans 5:9)" (39).
11 <i>To Complete the Obedience That Becomes Our Righteousness</i>	"... <i>the obedience of Christ provided the righteousness we needed to be justified in God's court.</i> The demands of God for entrance into eternal life are not merely that our unrighteousness be cancelled, but that our perfect righteousness be established" (41).
12 <i>To Take Away Our Condemnation</i>	"Faith in Christ unites us to Christ so that his death becomes our death and his perfection becomes our perfection. Christ becomes our punishment (which we don't have to bear) and our perfection (which we cannot perform)" (42).

#### Objectives:

- To show the necessity for God to uphold his own justice and righteousness, and the problem that arises when he forgives sinners and grants them eternal life.
- To show how Christ's suffering and death perfectly resolved this dilemma.
- To introduce justification as both the cancellation of our debt and the imputation of Christ's righteousness.

## *The Past Accomplishment of Christ's Work*

### **The Fulfillment of God's Law**

Description: In his life and death Jesus Christ fulfilled all the righteousness that God's law requires. When we come to God in Christ, we are clothed in the righteousness that Christ fulfilled. Our works merit no favor from God. Only Christ, and his righteousness credited to us, merits God's favor. And this we receive by faith, and faith alone.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
7	"There is no salvation by balancing the records. There is only salvation by canceling records" (33).
13	"The cross means freedom from the enslavement of ritual" (45).
26	"Sinless, he did not offer sacrifices for himself. Immortal, he never has to be replaced. Human, he could bear human sins. Therefore he did not offer sacrifices for himself; he offered himself as the final sacrifice" (71).
31	"We have died to law-keeping so that we might live to fruit-bearing. Fruit grows naturally on a tree. If the tree is good, the fruit will be good. And the tree, in this case, is a living relationship of love to Jesus Christ" (81).

#### Objectives:

- To magnify the sinless perfection of Jesus Christ as our hope for salvation.
- To show how utterly sinful it is to try to use God's law to earn his favor.
- To show that there are no prerequisites to enter into the people of God, instead all may enter by faith in Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior and Treasure.
- To demonstrate ways in which the whole Old Testament points to Jesus Christ.
- To show that good works are the fruit of the Spirit which grow naturally out of union to and a relationship with Jesus Christ.

## *The Present Experience of Christ's Work*

### **A New Self**

Description: In Christ believers are a new creation. When Christ died on the cross we died with him, crucifying the old self in order to live anew to God. This new creation, this rebirth, has dramatic implications on how we live in this age and on what we hope for in the age to come.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
14	“When Christ died, he secured for his people not only new hearts but new security. He will not let them turn from him. He will keep them. They will persevere. The blood of the covenant guarantees it” (47).
15	“The suffering of Christ secures our perfection so firmly that it is already now a reality. Therefore, we fight against our sin not simply to become perfect, but because we are” (49).
30	“The old self that loved sin died with Jesus...My new life is now swayed by righteousness...The beauty of Christ, who loved me and gave himself for me, is the desire of my soul” (79).
34	“From the divine side Christ is living in us and enabling us to live the way he teaches us to live. It's his work. But from our side it's experienced by trusting him moment by moment to be with us and to help us” (87).

#### Objectives:

- To demonstrate our identification with Christ's death.
- To show that our death with Christ was not for the purpose of autonomy but that we might belong to and live for God and righteousness.
- To introduce the Christian's strange experience of becoming what we are in Christ, namely holy, blameless, and perfect.
- To present the New Covenant promise of a new heart.

## *The Present Experience of Christ's Work*

### **A Living Faith**

Description: Saving faith is not merely intellectual assent to a body of truths about God. It is seeing and savoring all that God is for us in Jesus. This dramatically shapes what we live for, how we act, how we think and feel. In other words it is a living relationship with a living Savior and Lord.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
32	“He died to wean us off the breast of poisonous pleasures and enthrall us with the pleasures of his beauty. In this way we are loved and he is honored. These are not competing aims. They are one” (83).
33	“Boasting only in the cross means only the cross enables every other legitimate boast, and every legitimate boast should therefore honor the cross” (84).
36	“Christ died to make us this kind of people—passionate to help the poor and the perishing. It is the best life, no matter what it costs us in this world: they get help, we get joy, God gets glory” (91).
37	“The same suffering that pardons our sins provides our pattern of love” (93).

#### Objectives:

- To explain saving faith as both seeing *and* savoring all that God is for us in Jesus.
- To exhort one another to live for the exaltation of Christ and the glory of the cross.
- To urge a life of sacrificial love for the sake of the poor and needy to the glory of Christ.

## *The Present Experience of Christ's Work*

### **A Relationship of Love**

Description: To be in Christ is to be infinitely loved by an infinite God. In Christ we find a Savior who loves us perfectly, a God who exerts his omnipotence for our good, a high priest who sympathizes with our weaknesses, and a husband who gave his own life for us.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
5	“[This] is what divine love is in the end: a passion to enthrall undeserving sinners, at great cost, with what will make us supremely happy forever, namely, his infinite beauty” (29).
6	“The death of Christ is not only the demonstration of God’s love, it is also the supreme expression of Christ’s own love for all who receive it as their treasure” (30).
27	“He knows our cry. He tasted our struggle. He bids us come with confidence when we feel our need” (73).
35	“[M]arriage is meant to make Christ’s love for his people more visible in the world” (89).

#### Objectives:

- To help each other see and feel the infinite love of God in Christ.
- To describe the Christian life as fruit flowing from this relationship with the Son of God.
- To encourage people to approach Christ in the confidence that he knows and understands our struggles.
- To strengthen marriages where sacrificial love is displayed by husband and wife as they pursue their Christ-exalting roles.

## *The Present Experience of Christ's Work*

### **Freedom and Liberty in Life**

Description: Submission to God is true liberty because we desire what we ought to desire and find satisfaction in what should bring us satisfaction, namely the glory of God. In addition to this, in Christ, we find freedom from the enslaving rule of fear and guilt and sin.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
16	“When our conscience rises up and condemns us, where will we turn? We turn to Christ. We turn to the suffering and death of Christ—the blood of Christ. This is the only cleansing agent in the universe that can give the conscience relief in life and peace in death” (51).
28	“When Christ died, God had a view to the relationship between us and our ancestors. He meant to set us free from the futility we inherited from them” (75).
29	“Our sin ruins us in two ways...It damns us with guilt, and it enslaves us to lovelessness. The blood of Jesus frees us from both miseries” (76).
39	“The devil may kill our body, but he can no longer kill our soul. It is safe in Christ. And even our mortal body will be raised someday... We are the freest of all people” (97).

#### Objectives:

- To declare the profound peace and security of our great salvation in Jesus.
- To sever the enslaving power of fear by pleading for faith in the promises of Christ.
- To connect ultimate security in Christ with the willingness and desire to risk in the cause of love.

## *The Present Experience of Christ's Work*

### **Hope for the Whole World**

Description: Jesus Christ is not a tribal deity. He is the Savior of the world. He shed his blood to purchase men and women from every tribe and tongue and people and nation of the world. This, then, is our ultimate mission: to spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples through Jesus Christ.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
38	"[T]he Lamb of God shed his blood that we might defeat the devil by trusting his blood and shedding ours. Jesus calls us onto the Calvary road. It is a hard and good life. Come" (95).
44	"God and man were reconciled. Only as the races find and enjoy this, will they love and enjoy each other forever. In overcoming our alienation from God, Christ overcomes it between races" (107).
45	"Christ died to save a great diversity of peoples. Sin is no respecter of cultures. All peoples have sinned. Every race and culture needs to be reconciled to God. As the disease of sin is global, so the remedy is global" (109).
46	"[A]ll over the world there are people whom God has chosen to be reached and saved by Jesus Christ" (111).

#### Objectives:

- To spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples through Jesus Christ.
- To remind one another that pursuing this passion is costly.
- To convict and expose strongholds of prejudice and racism in our own hearts.
- To see the beauty of God in diversity and exhort one another to glorify God in the redemption of all cultures.
- To cut off paternalistic tendencies and promote trust in God not culture.

## *The Future Consummation of Christ's Work*

### **Final Victory Over Sickness and Death**

Description: God works all things together for our good, including sickness and death. Sickness and death, however, are not natural parts of life. They entered the world through sin. They are a curse. When Christ died and rose again he conquered sickness and death. In Christ, therefore, we have the hope of eternal life. And this hope is holistic. It involves not only the redemption of our souls, but also the redemption of our weak, frail, and mortal bodies.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
17	“The suffering and death of Christ guarantee that God will give us all things that we need to do his will and give him glory and attain everlasting joy” (53).
18	“The horrible blows to the back of Jesus bought a world without disease” (55).
40	“[D]eath for the Christian will mean coming home to Christ” (99).
41	“If sin is paid for, and righteousness provided, and justice is satisfied, nothing can keep Christ or his people in the grave” (101).

#### Objectives:

- To combat against a romanticized mentality that views death as a good or simply natural part of life, rather than the enemy that it is.
- To produce gratitude and praise for a God who can turn sickness and even death, the final enemy, into workers for our eternal joy.
- To demonstrate God's concern for the physical creation, and his sovereign plan to restore all creation.
- To declare the hope of resurrection bodies, which sickness cannot taint and death cannot conquer.

## *The Future Consummation of Christ's Work*

### **Eternal Life in the Presence of God**

Description: The Gospel is all about God. We were created to enjoy God. And we were created to glorify God. These are not two purposes. They are one. And Christ has rescued us from eternal wrath so that we may experience this singular purpose forever.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
19	"[E]ternal life is not merely the extension of this life with its mix of pain and pleasure...It is supreme and ever-increasing happiness where all sin and all sadness will be gone" (57).
22	"The gospel of Christ is the good news that at the cost of his Son's life, God has done everything necessary to enthrall us with what will make us eternally and ever-increasingly happy, namely, himself" (63).
47	"Sin was dealt with once for all. No new sacrifice is needed. Our shield from future wrath is as sure as the sufferings of Christ in our place" (113).

#### Objectives:

- To show that salvation, indeed all of reality, begins and ends with God.
- To understand salvation in three ways – past, present, and future – and to show the centrality of Jesus Christ at every stage.
- To define eternal life as primarily the enjoyment of fellowship with God.

## *The Future Consummation of Christ's Work*

### **Eternal Joy in the Glory of Christ**

Description: The final goal of all history is the exaltation of the glory of Jesus Christ for all to see and savor.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Key Quote</u>
48	“‘For the joy that was before him [he] endured the cross.’ First the agony of the cross, then the ecstasy of heaven” (48).
49	“If we are to be as happy as we can be, we must see and savor the most glorious person of all, Jesus Christ himself. This means that to love us, Jesus must seek the fullness of his glory and offer it to us for our enjoyment” (117).

#### Objectives:

- To break down the dichotomy between glorifying God and pursuing our happiness.
- To show that what is most loving is pointing others to see and savor Jesus Christ.
- To challenge and inspire one another to harmonize our purpose in life with the goal of all history, namely the exaltation of the glory of Jesus Christ.

## *Sample Study Questions*

- 1) What would the main point of this chapter be in your own words?
- 2) In light of this chapter or passage what should our personal response be?
- 3) What does the passion of Jesus Christ accomplish in this chapter?
- 4) How does the passion of Jesus Christ accomplish \_\_\_\_\_ in this chapter?
- 5) If you were to explain the truth of this chapter to a child what would you say?
- 6) Does the truth in this chapter seem to conflict with any other truths in the Bible? If so, what is the best way to reconcile them?
- 7) Where can you find the truths of this chapter affirmed in other parts of Scripture?

## ***Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts***

### **Chapter 1**

*Sin* – falling short of God’s moral law

*Glorify* – to honor something; to recognize and exalt the worth of someone or something

*Propitiation* – a sacrifice that satisfies God’s wrath and diverts it from someone else deserving of it

### **Chapter 2**

*Messiah* – term used for the promised King of Israel, and the world, meaning “Anointed One”

*Christ* – the Greek translation of the Hebrew term, Messiah

*New Testament* – the last 27 books of the Bible, written after the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ

### **Chapter 3**

*Righteousness* – conformity of heart, mind, and will to the God’s moral law; of God, the commitment to uphold the greatest value in the universe, namely the glory of His name

*Incarnation* – the act of God the Son entering into the world and becoming man, Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary

### **Chapter 4**

*Vindication* – the act of proving or justifying a claim to be true or a person to be right

### **Chapter 6**

*Forgiveness* – the gracious act of God to no longer hold sin against an individual and to forget it

### **Chapter 7**

*Damnation* – condemnation; the everlasting punishment of God’s wrath

### **Chapter 8**

*Ransom* – the price required to release someone from captivity

*Condemnation* – eternal punishment for sin

### **Chapter 9**

*Grace* – free and unmerited favor

*God’s Justice* – God’s moral rightness

*Blaspheme* – to speak with contempt or irreverence or to utter inappropriate things about God

*God’s Glory* – the radiant beauty of God’s perfections and holiness

### **Chapter 10**

*Justification* – the imputation to sinners of the righteousness of Christ, and the declaration that they are righteous on that basis.

*Sanctification* – the process of being made and becoming more Christ-like and more holy

*Abomination* – something disgusting or loathsome

### **Chapter 11**

*Imputation* – the crediting of Christ’s righteousness to our account based on no merit of our own

*Pardon* – to forgive or release from penalty

### **Chapter 12**

*Faith* – a trusting in God that yields a satisfaction with all that God is for us in Christ.

### **Chapter 13**

*Circumcision* – the Jewish practice of circumcising male infants to show inclusion in the covenant people of God

*Yoke of slavery* – a yoke is a wooden bar used to join together a team of oxen for the purpose of controlling them in farming; used in Scripture to speak the enslaving and controlling power of sin

### **Chapter 14**

*Covenant* – O. Palmer Robertson’s definition: “a bond in blood sovereignly administered.”

*Mediator* – one who goes between two parties for the purpose of reconciliation and communication

### **Chapter 15**

*Passover Lamb* – the lamb sacrificed during the Jewish Passover festival which celebrated the deliverance of the Jewish people out of Egypt; the Passover Lamb specifically commemorated the time when the angel of God slew the firstborn of all the people in Egypt, but passed over the houses of those who had covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificial lamb

### **Chapter 16**

*Conscience* – a sense of the moral quality or responsibility of one’s actions

### **Chapter 17**

*Logic* – the practice of reasoning through propositions to form a valid conclusion

### **Chapter 18**

*Subjected* – to be brought under the control of; to be dominated, ruled

*Futility* – fruitlessness; vanity; ending only in failure

*Redemption* – to purchase from slavery; to set free from the control and the consequences of sin

*Transgression* – a violation against God’s law

### **Chapter 19**

*Romanticize* – to idealize or treat in an unrealistic and unpractical way

### **Chapter 20**

*Lackey* – a menial slave

### **Chapter 21**

*Reconciliation* – the restoration of a broken relationship

### **Chapter 22**

*Gospel* – good news; specifically, the good news of work of God in history, that “Christ died for our sins...was buried...was raised...and appeared to more than five hundred people” (1 Cor. 15:3-8)

*Theology* – the study of God and his ways

*Salvation* – deliverance from sin and death and eternal punishment

*Adoption* – the free act of choosing to take a child as one’s own when there are no legal binds to do so

*Idolaters* – one’s who value anything more than God

### **Chapter 23**

*Fallen Humans* – those born with the effects and guilt of Adam’s sin

*Autonomy* – a state of self-governance with absolutely no external factors which may sway decisions

*Repentance* – a sincere sorrow for and renunciation of sin, and a decision to forsake it and to joyfully follow Christ

### **Chapter 28**

*Animistic* – a worldview that attributes spirits to all things including objects and occurrences in nature and inanimate objects

*Secular* – separated from the spiritual realm; concerning only the worldly or temporal

*Fatalism* – the belief that all things are fixed in advance such that we are powerless to change them and in a way that makes our decisions and actions wholly meaningless

### **Chapter 29**

*Guilt of sin* – legal and moral culpability before God brought on by our sinful acts of rebellion

*Power of sin* – sin’s controlling and enslaving power

### **Chapter 30**

*Baptism* – the practice of immersion in water in obedience to Christ’s command, signifying a Christian’s death with Christ and entrance into the people of God

### **Chapter 33**

*Tribulations* – distresses or sufferings, often brought on by persecution

*Worldliness* – relating to or devoted to the temporal world I think this is an insufficient or misleading definition, as it’s too ambiguous, given that we are to be actively engaged in this present world. I think I’d say something like “conformity to this world over and against being transformed by God and His Word”—or something like that

### **Chapter 34**

*Paradoxical* – seemingly contradictory with the possibility of being true nonetheless

*Sequential* – acts in succession; natural order of progression

*Old Self* – the self that loves sin more than God before faith in Christ

*New Self* – the self that loves God above all things, brought on only by the life-giving, miraculous act of God in our hearts

### **Chapter 36**

*Zeal* – passionate devotion; fervent and diligent pursuit toward a cause

### **Chapter 37**

*Vicarious* – acting in the place of another, substituted

*Inimitable* – the impossibility of imitation

### **Chapter 38**

*Comrades* – friends, companions

*Comaraderie* – goodwill among friends

### **Chapter 41**

*Hades* – Greek word for ‘the place of the dead’; can refer to death, the grave, or hell

### **Chapter 44**

*Antagonism* – hostility, resistance, opposition

*Parochial* – narrowly confined, limited, restricted; provincial