

SUNDAY A.M. MARCH 8, 2015

SERMON: Did the Savior Come to Earth?

TEXT: 1 Peter 3:18, *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit."*

Intro: "Why did Jesus Christ suffer and die?" is the most important _____ of the twenty-first century! How important is the _____ to YOU?

1. **The _____ Passion of the Cross:** *"for Christ also suffered once for sins."* Cf. 1 Pet. 2:21-22. There is no sacrifice or atonement that can please God other than _____ death on the cross. Even our own _____ won't pay for our sins. The price has already been paid – Jesus _____ it ALL! Cf. Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 6:20.
2. **The _____ Provision of the Cross:** *"the just for the unjust."* Cf. 1 Pet. 2:24a. Jesus ("the just") took our ("the unjust") _____ and died our _____. Thus, Christ became a substitutionary sacrifice, paying the price for human _____! Cf. 1 John 2:2; 2 Cor. 5:21; Matt. 20:28.
3. **The _____ Power of the Cross:** *"that He might bring us to God."* Cf. 1 Pet. 2:24b. Christ restored our dead and broken _____ with God. Paul calls this _____ (2 Cor. 5:18-19).

Con: The word "bring" in this verse is amazing! In ancient literature it described "admission to an audience with the Great King." In scripture it identifies _____ (cf. Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:18). Thus, it is ONLY through Jesus we have _____ to God (John 14:6). Will you obey Jesus today (Heb. 5:8-9)?

- *Mark N. Posey*