

the  Venues
Go Deep
Did God Kill Jesus?
Did God Save Us From Jesus?
3.31.19

Of the five theories discussed last week on what it means for Jesus to die for our sins, which one sticks out to you? Which one are you most familiar with?

In the West, the most popular theory is Penal Substitutionary Atonement, which says we deserve punishment for our sins and Jesus endured God's punishment in our place.

*How were you punished as a child when you did something wrong?
Were you ever punished for something someone else did wrong?*

If Penal Substitution is true, what does this say about God as a parent who violently punishes His children?

Read Psalm 40:6, Matthew 9:13

How does God view sacrifice?

Read Deuteronomy 12:31

What does God say about sacrificing a son?

One point of this theory is that God is holy and cannot associate with sinners because of His holiness.

Read Matthew 9:10-11, 11:19

If Jesus is God, how do we understand these verses in light of Penal Substitution Theory?

The theory suggests the most important aspect of Jesus' life was his death, because death/punishment is required for the forgiveness of sins.

Read Mark 2:5, Luke 7:47-50

What led to forgiveness of sins in these stories?

Is it possible this theory can be held as one of many ways to understand the cross throughout church history and not the only one?

Read Colossians 1:20

Is it possible the cross is less about protection from God's punishment and more about a God who reconciles all things to God/Love?

Read Luke 23:34

"Jesus did not shed his blood to buy God's forgiveness, Jesus shed his blood to embody God's forgiveness!" - Brian Zahnd

What do you think of this quote?

What does the cross mean to you? Does your view of the cross cause you to love God or fear God?

Why is it difficult for us to change or adjust our views?

Prayer: God, you are bigger than any one theory. Just as the universe is beyond our comprehension, so are You. What we know from the person of Jesus is You are Love. Help us embrace the power and mystery of the cross with humility. Help me love and forgive like You love and forgive. I am reconciled to You, the source of Love.