

**Great Doctrines of the Bible VI:
“Why Did Jesus Have to Die?”
1 Corinthians 15:1-5**

**Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN**

1. If someone asked you to explain what Christianity is all about in 5 minutes, what would you say?
 - a. The Apostle Paul wrote in **1 Cor. 15:3** in regards to that which was of first importance.
2. The Gospel centers on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.
 - a. All the world admits Jesus of Nazareth was crucified by his own people and with the legal permission of the Roman government.
 - b. The cross, once the torture stake of death, became the symbol of life and is now the mark of Christianity universally.
3. Some people think Jesus died by accident.
4. This is the kind of God we want to know about. God knows about our suffering because he has suffered. This is a major emphasis of the Gospel.

I. What Happened To Jesus?

- A He suffered under Pilate.
- B The Romans executed criminals by crucifixion - the most horrible death ever known to man.
- C This is what happened to Jesus.
 1. This form of execution was common during the time of Jesus.
 2. Not much description of method in the New Testament.
 3. We are just given the plain facts that Jesus was crucified.
 4. **Luke 23:33**, “When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals-one on his right, the other on his left.”
 5. Crucifixion was so common that all people were used to seeing it.

II. Why Did Jesus Choose To Die?

- A His death was motivated by his love for us.
 1. **(John 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8)**.
- B His death was for us.
 1. **(Isa. 53:5)**.
- C His death was related to our sins.
 1. At the cross, sin is judged severely.
 2. At the cross, sin is forgiven and cleansed **(Rom. 5:9)**.
 3. Only through the cross are we justified **(Phil. 3:4-8)**.

III. What Does All Of This Mean For Us?

- A It tells us the kind of God we serve.
- B It tells us that God’s love sets us free from our sin.
- C It tells us God is worthy of our devotion.
- D If Jesus is God and died for me then no sacrifice I make is too great for Him.