



Thinking Like a Christian January-March 2021    Zooming in on the Cross  
7<sup>th</sup> February 2016

## 5. The effectiveness of the cross

*Which of your sins did Jesus die for?*

*Did Jesus leave any of the work of saving you, to you?*

*Who did Jesus die for?*

What did the cross achieve?

If Jesus died in *our* place – if *we* died with Christ – two questions arise.

1. What did this achieve for us?
2. Who is 'us'? i.e. who did Jesus achieve this for?

The two questions are linked.

### 1. What did Jesus achieve for us at the cross?

Did Jesus die so that we *can be* saved, or did Jesus die so that we *shall be* saved?

Did Jesus die *to offer to save* us, or did he die *to save* us?

	Died to offer to save us	Died to save us
What sins did Jesus pay for?		
What happened to the old me?		

### 2. Who is 'us'?

Three options here:

- A. Universal and Effective – so all people everywhere will be forgiven (“Universalism”)
- B. Universal but not Effective (tried to save everyone but completely saved no-one)
- C. Effective but not universal (completely saved his people, for whom he died)

Which is right?

Universal Salvation (A) is denied by almost every page of the Bible. We can rule that out.

What did God intend the cross to achieve?

Luke 19:10

John 6:39; 11:51-52; 14:1-3

Isaiah 53:5

Romans 6:8-9

Jesus' cross actually put our old selves to death. He did not leave that bit to us.

Jesus' death actually forgives all our sins. Including the sin of unbelief.

Jesus died to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15)

The problem with saying Jesus died so we 'can' be saved:

What it says about the cross

Who did Jesus *actually* save?

What it says about the Trinity

What it says about me & my salvation

Conclusions:

- We cannot speak of the cross as if it leaves something unfinished.
- Your actual sins were actually atoned for at the cross.

Didn't Jesus die for everyone?

- Eternal judgment is still reserved for those who don't trust Christ.
- God's love for the world is shown in his *actually* redeeming it through the cross, which is through actually saving his chosen people; not through doing something for everyone which might turn out to benefit nobody
- Bible insists that the command to repent and believe is accompanied by the promise that all who respond will find that their sins were paid for at the cross.

What about: John 3:16

Romans 8:32

Exodus 28:9-12 Your High Priest

*'All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.'* (Catechism of the [Roman] Catholic Church, 1030)

*I know Jesus died for sinners, but I just don't know whether my faith is strong enough for it to help me.*

*Jesus died for all our sins, so I don't think that a little sin every now and then really matters.*

*Jesus accepts everyone just the same – just some people respond better to it*