

Week 3.

- Would you ever choose to die in someone else's place? Have you ever heard of someone doing so?
- Read Romans 5:6-10.
- What state was humanity in when God sent Jesus to die for us?
- What does Paul tell us about Christ's death?
- How does Jesus' sacrificial death make a difference?
- The death and resurrection of Jesus can be understood in many ways - rather like a multi-faceted diamond. Read the text opposite and discuss your personal understanding (which may be different from those mentioned).

It is important to note that these are all theories put forward by eminent theologians that have been in and out of favour over time & amongst different Christian Groups. No single theory alone explains the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ adequately.

- However we choose to understand Jesus' death and resurrection it is clear throughout the NT, that it has personal implications for each of us. Paul goes on to say in v11 that it is worth boasting about! Do you agree?
- Ultimately the fact of Jesus' death & resurrection remains a mysterious supernatural event - perhaps forever entirely beyond complete human explanation.
- Close in prayer thanking God for his generosity towards us 'when we were still far off' and in need of restoration and reconciliation.

Essential Gospel



Jesus Died For You

'[Christ] didn't and doesn't wait for us to get ready....God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him.'

The Message Romans 5:6&8

The word atonement is used in Christian theology to describe what is achieved by the death of Jesus. Atonement (at-one-ment) is the reconciliation of men and women to God through the death of Jesus.

Alister E. McGrath's four main themes are:

- The cross as sacrifice (offering made to God on our behalf by Jesus - taken up by St. Augustine).
- The cross as a victory (Over sin & the Devil by way of a Ransom paid by Christ - put forward by Gregory the Great).
- The cross and forgiveness (a satisfaction for our sin - put forward by Anselm 11th Century).
- The cross as a moral example (of God's love for us - put forward by Peter Abelard 1079-1142).

[Christian Theology, An Introduction : Alister E. McGrath : Wiley-Blackwell : 2016]

The idea of penal substitution is summed up as Jesus taking the punishment for humanity's sins when he died on the cross. This theory was taken up by protestant Reformers.

