

THE CROSS OF CHRIST AND THE JUSTICE OF GOD

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is a pivotal event in the history of humanity, representing the intersection of God's justice and mercy. Here's an explanation of how the cross of Christ **freely, fully, , finally, and forever** paid the debt of sin:

Free Payment –Grace and Redemption

Grace: The payment for sin by Christ was an act of grace, meaning it was unmerited and freely given. Ephesians 2:8-9 states, "*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*"

Redemption: This free gift of salvation means believers are redeemed, or bought back, from the bondage of sin without any cost to them.

Full Payment—Propitiation and Atonement

Propitiation: His sacrifice satisfied the righteous demands of God's justice, appeasing His wrath against sin. 1 John 2:2 says, "*And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*"

Atonement: Jesus' death on the cross was a substitutionary atonement for the sins of humanity. This means He took upon Himself the punishment that we deserved. Romans 3:25 says, "*God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.*"

Final Payment- Once for All Sacrifice

Finality : The sacrifice of Jesus is final and complete. Hebrews 10:12-14 declares, "*But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God... For by one sacrifice, he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*"

It is Finished: Jesus' proclamation, "*It is finished*" (John 19:30), signifies the completion of His redemptive work, meaning no further sacrifices are needed.

Forever Payment—Eternal Efficacy

Eternal Life: The efficacy of Christ's sacrifice extends into eternity. Believers are assured of eternal life because their sins are paid for forever. John 3:16 confirms this, "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*"

Security in Salvation: Romans 8:38-39 assures believers that nothing can separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus, highlighting the permanence of their salvation.

Charles Hodge- In "Systematic Theology," Hodge describes the atonement as penal and substitutionary. Christ bore the penalty of sin in our place, satisfying divine justice and reconciling us to God.

The cross of Christ demonstrates *the free, full, final, and forever* nature of the payment for sin. This profound theological truth emphasizes the completeness and sufficiency of Christ's work on the cross, offering hope and assurance to all who believe.