

CHRISTMAS STATEMENTS: SIN MUST BE PUNISHED
HEB. 1:1-4; HEB. 9:26; ISA. 53:6; ROM. 3:25,26; 5:6-11

(NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ²has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Heb. 9:26 – “But now He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

This verse tells us about

I. THE _____ OF CHRISTMAS – “HE has appeared”

II. THE _____ OF CHRISTMAS – “to do away with sin”

III. THE _____ OF CHRISTMAS – “by the sacrifice of Himself.”

To fully understand the Christmas story, and why it was necessary for Christ to come to earth, we need to understand two problems:

A. WE HAVE A PROBLEM - _____. Rom. 3:23 – “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

B. _____ HAS A PROBLEM – SIN MUST BE PUNISHED
God will “not leave the guilty unpunished” (Exodus 34:7). “The soul who sins is the one who will die” (Ezekiel 18:4). “For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). “And these will go away into eternal punishment” (Matthew 25:46).

Rom. 2:5-8 –⁵ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” ⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

However, we do need to know that God takes no pleasure in punishing the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11). Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’

So how is sin dealt with? The Bible says, "...without the shedding of blood there

is no forgiveness" (Hebrews 9:22, NIV).

Lev.17:11 - "For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life" (NIV).

The blood of lambs could never really take away our sin. Hebrews 10:4 says, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."

God provided a substitute.

Romans 3:25,26 "God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith....²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus."

Isa. 53:6 - The Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

John 1:29 - Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world.

Romans 5:6-11 - You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation

I Pet.1:18-19, "...But you were saved from that useless life. You were bought, not with something that ruins like gold or silver, but with the precious blood of Christ, who was like a pure and perfect lamb" (NCV).

HOW DO I MAKE THIS PERSONAL?

Admit your problem is sin. Accept the fact that Jesus is the only Way to be forgiven. Ask Him to forgive you!

God has spoken to us by Jesus. What was He saying? He was saying "Sin must be punished – but I love you, and I will give My Son to bear the punishment for you."

