

nations, forever. Never again would lambs have to die for people. Jesus did it for you and me.

WHY THE CROSS?

Why all the blood and guts? Couldn't God have planned just a simple, easy, quick death for Jesus, like poison or a scorpion bite? On the Cross, He died such a long painful death. Why? Well, when people on earth talk to Jesus (some people call that prayer) about their lives and how they hurt and all the bad things they go through, Jesus can say "Yeah, I know. When I was dying, I hurt really bad and the pain was awful." Having someone like Jesus helps people feel better because they know He understands. When we cry, Jesus cries with us (John 11:35). He was one of us and He knows what it is like to be human. Jesus' death opens the way to not only get our sins forgiven, but also gives us someone to talk to when we are hurting who REALLY knows how we feel and can HELP us. So, God's plan in Jesus was perfect.

SO, NOW THAT I KNOW THIS, WHAT NOW?

Well, if you want to know God, you come through Jesus. (1Tim 2:5-6) How? You just have to talk to God, and thank Him for sending Jesus to be the ONCE and FOR ALL perfect sacrifice (some people call this "getting saved" John 3:16). You can just ask God to forgive you for the things you have done and what has happened to you. God will accept the sacrifice that Jesus made (you won't need to go get a perfect lamb to sacrifice) and God will now be able to have a relationship

with you. Then, God is free to work in your life and help you. Talk to Him (pray). God will give you a new clean start. Then He can guide you in how to live your life on earth. You will never be alone again. How? Well, God has His own Spirit (the Holy Spirit) who will always be with you and comfort you (John 14:16-18)

If you want to get to know God and Jesus even better, then pick up God's love letter to you, the Bible. Start with reading the book of John. Then keep reading Matthew, Mark and Luke. Read the book of Psalms when you hurt and you will feel better. Read Proverbs and you will get wisdom and guidance on how to live this life. Then keep reading. Every book in the Bible has a story to tell that can help you live. KEEP TALKING TO GOD (praying). He is listening.

Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6)

**High Country Mission
Hacker's Hill Project
Casco, Maine 04015**

www.silentpreacher.org

Getting to Know God

Why Jesus?



Isn't there another way?

GETTING REAL

So let's get real. No fancy talk. No fancy religion stuff. No rules about where to go, what to wear or what to eat. Let's have a simple talk about God.

You see, people who believe in God just look around and see the wonder of the world and believe that someone somewhere must have designed this world.

Look at how apples are made. 2 apple trees are needed to make good apples. Then, we need bees to go between the two trees to take the yellow pollen so that apple trees can blossom and give us great apples. What a plan!

Look at salmon. They somehow know that they need to return to the river where they were spawned. They lay their legs so that the cycle continues year after year. Things get even better because the bears know the salmon will come, so they show up and eat the salmon. What a plan!

Let's look at the geese. Every fall, if you look up into the sky, you will see the geese fly in a V formation going south. There is 1 leader that the others follow. No one has to organize them. They seem to just know how to do it. What a plan!

WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH GOD?

So for many people, watching the trees, fish and birds help people believe there is a God. It is like there is a really cool God who seems to take care of the smallest details in life. He is really creative. Just look at an ant farm. (Prov 6:6-8).

But people need more than looking around at nature to get through this life. As humans, we hurt. We struggle. We go through good times, but we also go through really bad times. We go through illnesses, diseases, pain and being hurt, really hurt, by other people. This isn't new, it happened way back to the people in the Bible, too (Job 30). Sometimes we hurt so bad that we even think about killing ourselves. We wonder, does this God really care about us?

The answer? YES! He does. But how do we get in touch with Him? The answer? Cry out to Him and talk to Him (some people call this prayer). Tell Him how bad you feel and how bad you hurt. He LISTENS and CARES! (Psalms 65:2 and Psalm 66:19 in the Bible)

SO, WHY JESUS? HOW DOES HE FIT IN WITH GOD'S?

People talk about Jesus all the time. Why is He such a big deal? When we look at apples and salmon and geese, we see that God is such a planner! So, of course, Jesus is actually part of a plan that God has for people to get to Him.

You see, back in the day, thousands of years ago, people wanted to get close to God; they needed a plan and a way. How? Well, they sacrificed animals. They got a perfect lamb, pure white. Then, once a year, they killed the lamb and held a ceremony to get right with God and ask God to forgive them of everything they had done wrong over the last year. Then they felt "right with God." But, it only lasted for a little while, and they did wrong things again, but they had to wait until next year to do the ceremony again. But God had an even better plan for people! He planned a way for a ONE TIME sacrifice so that all of the little lambs could stop dying. People wouldn't have to do it every year, either! Instead, the ONE perfect sacrifice could take away the wrong things (sin) of every person on earth once and for all. But which human could do that? God looked around and found some pretty good people, but He couldn't find a perfect person (like the perfect lambs). So, He sent Jesus, His only Son! (John 3:16)

JESUS, THE PERFECT SACRIFICE!

How was Jesus perfect? Well, He was born in a miraculous way (Luke 1:29-36). So when Jesus was born, He was perfect, no sin. He met that part of the plan. But how was He going to be sacrificed? God's plan was for Jesus to die on a cross. Why a cross? Well, that is how people were killed back then. But, He was dying, not because of what He did, but to be a sacrifice for people so they could have a relationship with God. But, when He died, He only had to die ONCE, for all of the people of the world, all