

DID JESUS DIE IN VAIN?

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible teaches that the death of Christ was powerful (Heb. 10:10-18).
2. But, the Bible also teaches that His death can be made vain (Heb. 10:28-31).
3. Many doctrines of men remove the power from the cross of Christ...

I. IF WE CAN SAVE OURSELVES...

- A. Many believe (by practice if not by word) that man can save himself.
 1. By being good enough...
 2. By having a good conscience...
 3. By ignorance of God's will...
- B. If this were true, then the death of Jesus was unnecessary (in vain).
- C. However, man cannot save himself.
 1. By being good enough (Acts 10:1-2; 11:14).
 2. By having a good conscience (Acts 22:4, 7; 23:1).
 3. By ignorance of God's will (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10).
- D. Thus, Jesus did not die in vain!

II. IF WE CAN BE SAVED BY THE LAW OF MOSES...

- A. Many believe that men should (or must) keep the Law of Moses.
 1. By keeping the Ten Commandments...
 2. By only holding to parts of the Old Law...
 3. By acknowledging God's forgiveness of Israel...
- B. If this were true, then Jesus did not need to die for man's salvation (Galatians 2:15-21; 3:21).
- C. However, the Law of Moses cannot save man.
 1. By keeping the Ten Commandments (James 2:10-11).
 2. By only holding to parts of the Old Law (Galatians 5:2-4).
 3. By hoping for similar forgiveness (Hebrews 10:1-4).
- D. Thus, Jesus did not die in vain!

III. IF WE CAN BE SAVED WITHOUT THE CHURCH...

- A. Many believe that the church is not necessary for man's salvation.
 1. By teaching, "Give me Christ, not the church."
 2. By teaching that salvation is outside of the church.
 3. By teaching, "Join the church of your choice."
- B. If that were true, then Jesus did not need to die to buy it (Acts 20:28).
- C. However, the church is essential to man's salvation.
 1. One cannot have Christ without the church (Ephesians 1:22-23).
 2. Salvation is in the church (Ephesians 5:23).
 3. The church is the one and only place of safety (Ephesians 4:4).
- D. Thus, Jesus did not die in vain!

IV. IF WE CAN BE SAVED WITHOUT BLOOD...

- A. Many believe that one does not need the blood of Christ for salvation.
 1. By denying the necessity of baptism (Acts 22:16; Revelation 1:5).
 2. By forsaking the assembly (Hebrews 10:25-29).
 3. By having fellowship with sin (1 Corinthians 10:16, 21).

- 4. By not worshipping worthily (1 Corinthians 11:23-29).
 - 5. By not walking in the light (1 John 1:7).
 - B. If that were true, then Jesus did not need to shed His blood (John 19:34).
 - C. However, the blood of Christ is essential to man's redemption (Matthew 26:28; Romans 3:25; 5:9; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:20; Hebrews 2:14-15; 9:12, 22; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:9; 7:14; 12:11).
 - D. Thus, Jesus did not die in vain!
- V. IF THERE IS NO RESURRECTION...
- A. Many believe that there will be no resurrection of the dead.
 - 1. By denying the resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:12-13).
 - 2. By denying the Second Coming of Christ (2 Peter 3:3-4).
 - B. If that were true, the Jesus did not need to die to assure man of life beyond the grave (1 Corinthians 15:20-24).
 - C. However, there will be a resurrection of the dead.
 - 1. Because Jesus was resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 20).
 - 2. Because Jesus will return (2 Peter 3:10-12).
 - D. Thus, Jesus did not die in vain!
- VI. IF HEAVEN IS NOT REAL...
- A. Many believe that there is no Heaven (or Hell).
 - 1. By denying that Jesus came from Heaven...
 - 2. By denying the eternity of the soul...
 - 3. By becoming attached to this world (Matthew 19:21-22; Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 10:34).
 - 4. By failing during persecution (Matthew 5:12).
 - 5. By falling back into sin (Revelation 3:12).
 - B. If that were true, the Jesus did not need to die to go and prepare a place for His faithful followers (John 14:1-3).
 - C. However, Heaven is real.
 - 1. Because Jesus came from Heaven (John 6:32-38).
 - 2. Because the soul is eternal (2 Corinthians 5:1).
 - 3. Because man can overcome (Revelation 2:7; 3:5; 21:1-7).
 - D. Thus, Jesus did not die in vain!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. If any of these things is true, the Jesus died in vain.
- 2. If Jesus died in vain, then all are lost (1 Cor. 15:16-20).
- 3. But, Jesus did not die in vain for none of these beliefs of men are true!
- 4. However, in your life, concerning your soul, has Jesus' death been in vain?