

*Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ*  
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# Obedient Unto Death

## Philippians 2:8

1967 - 2017



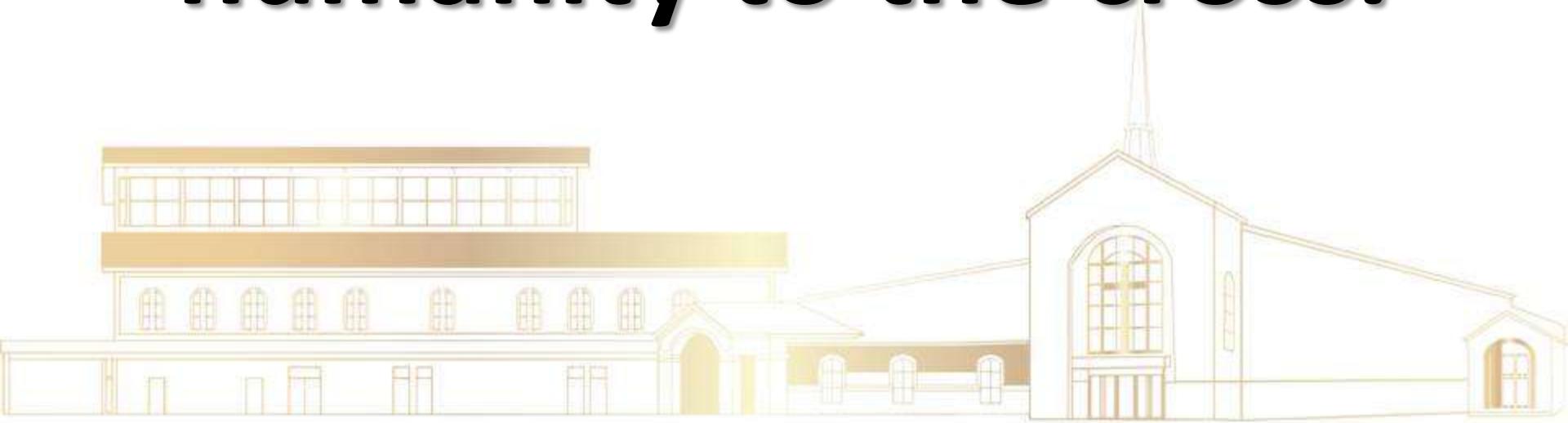


# Philippians 2:8

- And being found in fashion as a man,
- he humbled himself,
- and became obedient unto death,
- even the death of the cross.

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**Notice the way Paul  
connects Christ's  
humanity to the cross.**



# NOT His

- Perfect Example
- Incredible Teaching & Miracle Working Ministry
- Revelation of character of God the Father

1967 - 2017





# Philippians 2:8

- And being found in fashion as a man,  
**he humbled himself,**



# Humble Defined

- Not proud
- Not haughty
- Not arrogant
- Having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's own importance

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**What keeps us from  
apologizing, confessing  
sin, and admitting our  
mistakes?**



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# PRIDE

Is the enemy of each  
and every Christian in  
this room?

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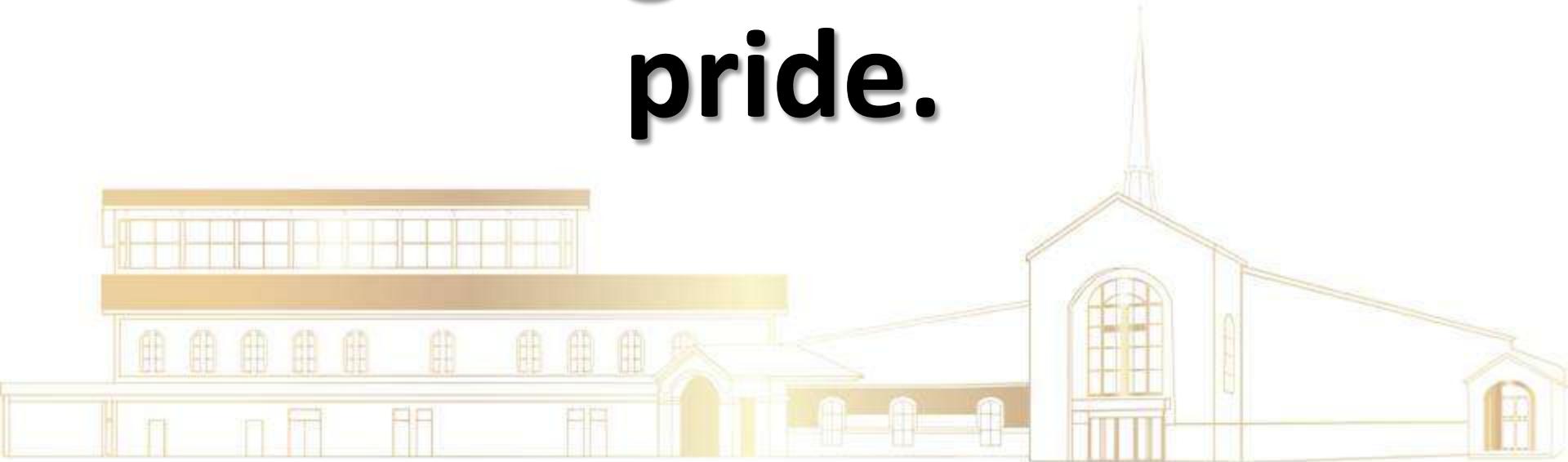


## Romans 12:3

• For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

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**Think about the  
relationship between  
UN-forgiveness and  
pride.**





# Matthew 23:12

**Jesus said:**

- **And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased;**
- **and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**



# 1 Peter 5:5

•Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.



## James 4:10

- **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**

## 1 Peter 5:6

- **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:**

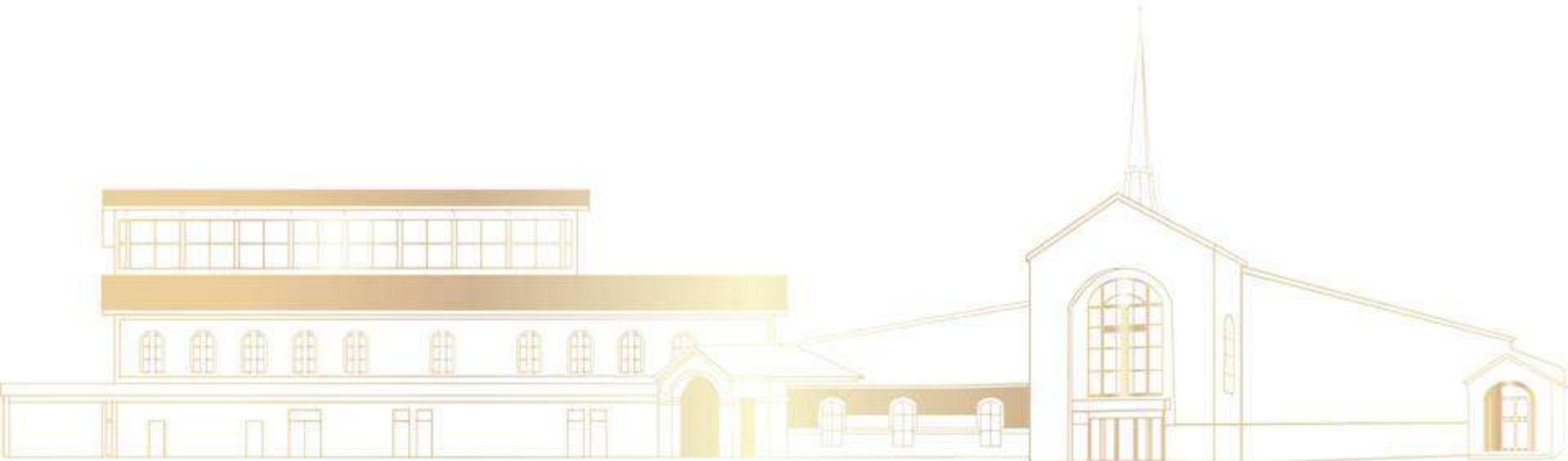


# Philippians 2:8

- And being found in fashion as a man,
- he humbled himself,
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unto death,

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**First, let's just focus on  
this word obedient.**



# Obedient

**Jesus was not a robot.**

**He had to legitimately obey  
His heavenly Father from  
birth to death.**

1967 - 2017





# John 4:34 (ESV)

- Jesus said to them, “**My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.**



## Romans 2:8

- **but for those who are self-seeking [or contentious] and do not obey the truth,**
- **but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.**

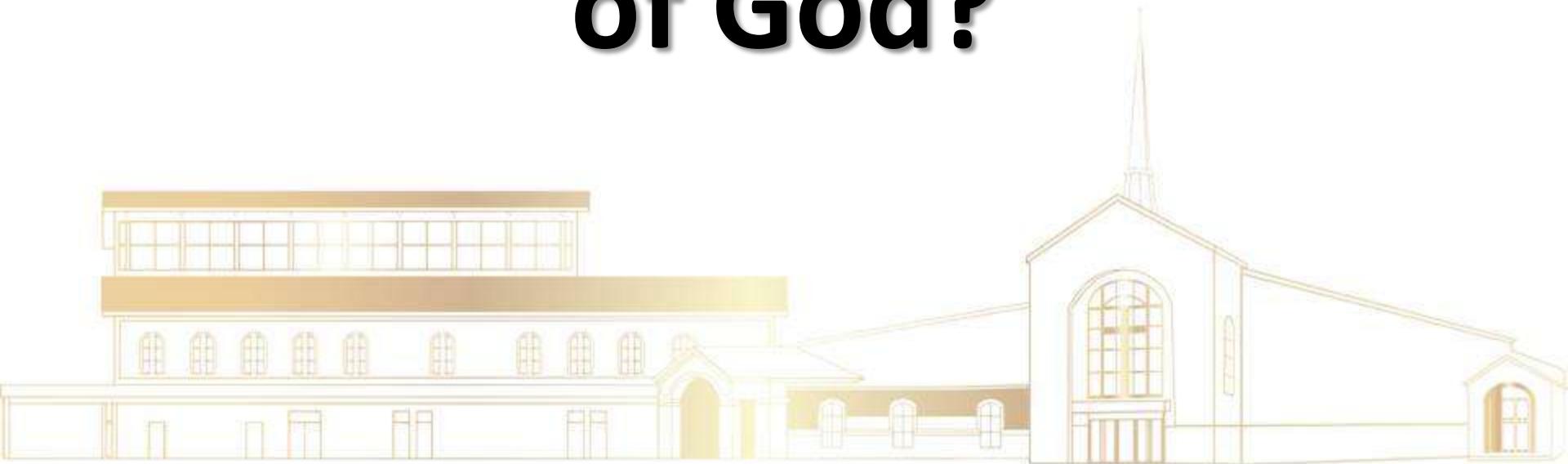


# Ephesians 6:1 & 5

- Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
- Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

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# How big of a deal is obedience to the Word of God?





## 2 Thessalonians 3:14

- **And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man,**
- **and have no company with him,**
- **that he may be ashamed.**

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**There is NO assurance  
of salvation for those  
who are characterized  
by disobedience to God.**



# John 10:27

Jesus said it like this:

My sheep hear my voice,

and I know them,

and they follow me:  
obey

1967 - 2017





## Hebrews 5:9

•And being made perfect,  
he [Christ] became the  
author of eternal  
salvation unto all them  
that obey him;

In what area are you  
struggling to obey  
the Lord?

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**Obedience to  
Parents**

**Scriptural  
Baptism**

**Lust**

**Forgiveness**

**Personal  
Holiness**

**Commitment to  
the Local Church**

**Purity of Speech**

**Faith in the  
Gospel**

**Love of Money**

**Service to the  
body of Christ**

**Modesty**

**Worship**

**Jealousy**

**Giving**

**????**

**Trust in the Lord**

**Loving your  
Neighbor**

**Contentment**

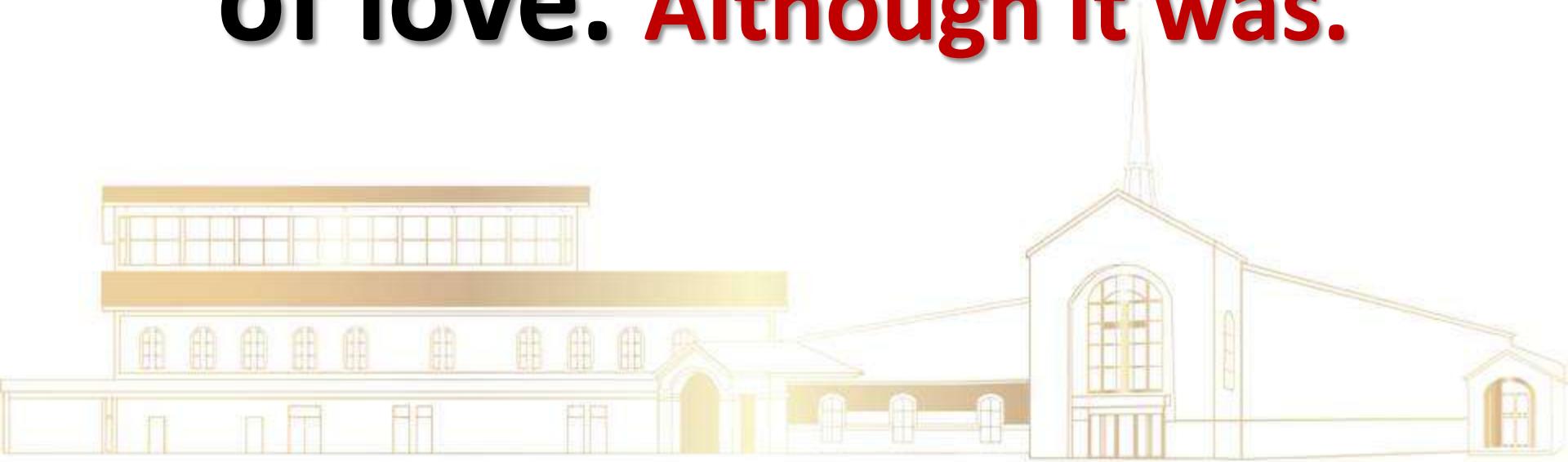
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**'Obedient unto death' is  
very intentional language.  
Jesus was NOT crucified  
against His will...**



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**and His death was NOT  
merely a demonstration  
of love. Although it was.**



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**Turn Over To**

**Romans 5:19**

**1<sup>st</sup> Adam, Last Adam**

*1967 - 2017*



# Romans 5:19

For as by one man's  
disobedience many were  
made sinners,

so by the obedience of one  
shall many be made  
righteous.

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**Notice they are not  
given the opportunity  
to become righteous;  
many will be made righteous.**



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# On the Cross

Something very transactional  
happened—much more than  
a demonstration of love or  
exercise in self-control.

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**The Atonement of Christ is the sacrificial work of Jesus for sinners. In his death on the cross, Christ atoned for the sins of humanity such that God is satisfied and reconciliation is accomplished for all who will be redeemed. The obedience and death of Christ on behalf of sinners is the ground of redemption.**

# PCUSA rejects popular hymn “In Christ Alone”

by Denny Burk on July 29, 2013 in Christianity

**Timothy George** explains why the Presbyterian Church USA has recently rejected the hymn “In Christ Alone” from its new hymnal:

*Recently, the wrath of God became a point of controversy in the decision of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song to exclude from its new hymnal the much-loved song “In Christ Alone” by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend. The Committee wanted to include this song because it is being sung in many churches, Presbyterian and otherwise, but they could not abide this line from the third stanza: “Till on that cross as Jesus died/the wrath of God was satisfied.” For this they wanted to substitute: “...as Jesus died/the love of God was magnified.” The authors of the hymn insisted on the original wording, and the Committee voted nine to six that “In Christ Alone” would not be among the eight hundred or so items in their new hymnal.*

There is no surprise in this news. Although not all PCUSA churches are theologically liberal, the denomination by and large is. Liberalism and wrath go together like oil and water; they don’t mix. And historically speaking, one of them eventually has to go. When wrath goes, so does the central meaning of the atonement of Christ—**penal**



# Brian Zahnd

*Full-time pastor. Occasional author. Would-be mountaineer.*

On April 16, 2014 by Brian Zahnd

## How Does “Dying For Our Sins” Work?

Brian Zahnd represents a group of progressive Christians who are repulsed by a God whose wrath is appeased through the cross. He writes:

When we say “Jesus died for our sins,” what does that mean? It’s undeniably an essential confession of Christian faith, but how does it work? This much I’m sure of, it’s not reducible to just one thing. I’ve just finished preaching eight sermons on [“The Crucified God”](#) and I know I’ve barely scratched the surface of what the cross means. To try to reduce the death of Jesus to a single meaning is an impoverished approach to the mystery of the cross.

At this point, we can agree with Zahnd but let's continue as he moves to trying to explain what it means for Jesus to die for our sins.

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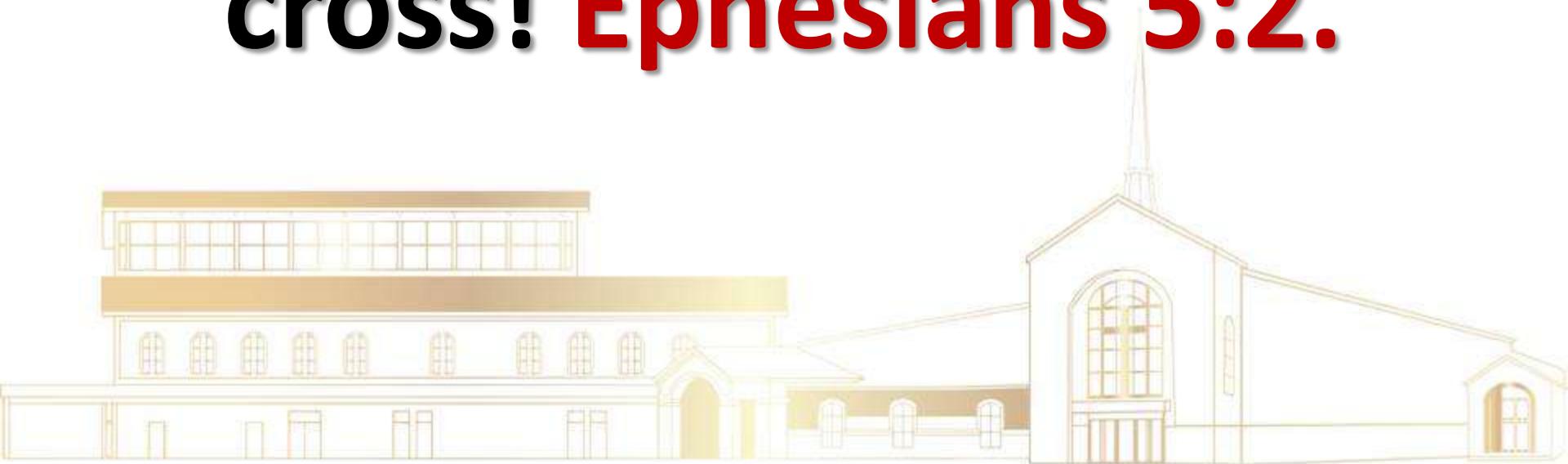


I'm especially talking about those tidy explanations of the cross known as "atonement theories." I find most of them inadequate; others I find repellent.

Particularly abhorrent are those theories that portray the Father of Jesus as a pagan deity who can only be placated by the barbarism of child sacrifice. The god who is mollified by throwing a virgin into a volcano or by nailing his son to a tree is *not* the Abba of Jesus!

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**Child Sacrifice is NOT  
what happened on the  
cross! Ephesians 5:2.**



# Ephesians 5:2

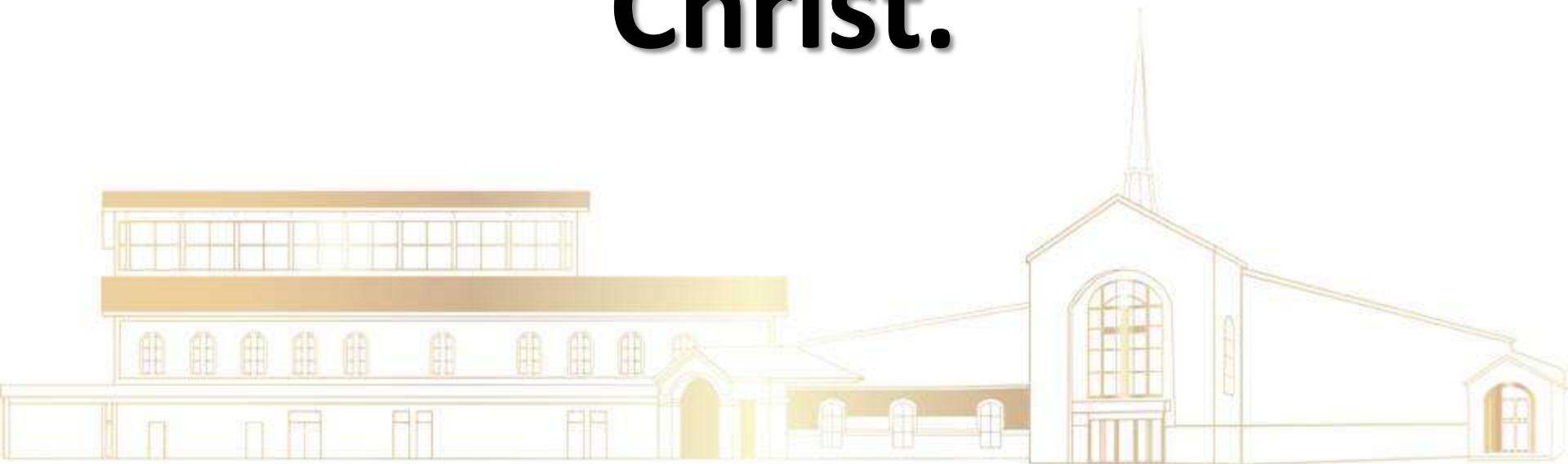
And walk in love, as Christ  
loved us and gave himself  
up for us,  
a fragrant offering and  
sacrifice to God.

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**Next notice how Zahnd  
describes the death of  
Christ.**

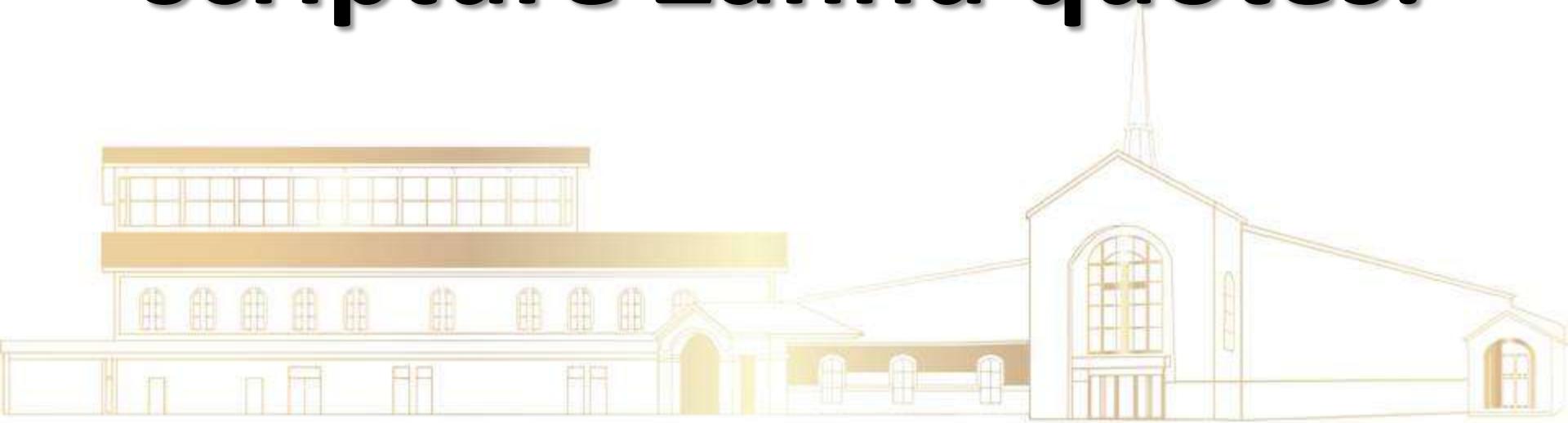


**So what do we do? Let's begin here: Before the cross is anything else, it is a catastrophe. It is the unjust lynching of an innocent man. This is precisely how the Apostles spoke of the crucifixion of Jesus in the book of Acts.**

**“This Jesus...you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.” –Acts 2:23**

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**Let's define catastrophe  
and look at the  
scripture Zahnd quotes.**



# Catastrophe Defined



- 1: the final event of the dramatic action especially of a tragedy**
- 2: a momentous tragic event ranging from extreme misfortune to utter overthrow or ruin**
- 3a: a violent and sudden change in a feature of the earth**
  - b: a violent usually destructive natural event (as a supernova)**
- 4: utter failure: fiasco**

**Merriam-Webster**

What did  
Romans

5:19

teach us?

1967 - 2017



Jesus's obedience unto death on the cross was the very antithesis of Adam's disobedience in which the many were made sinners. Through Christ's obedience the many will be made righteous.

1967 - 2017



**It [the death of Christ] is the unjust lynching  
of an innocent man. This is precisely  
how the Apostles spoke of the  
crucifixion of Jesus in the book of Acts.**



**“This Jesus...you crucified and killed by  
the hands of lawless men.” –Acts 2:23**

**ellipsis**

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# Turn to Acts 2:23

(I want you to see this in your own Bible.)

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this Jesus, delivered up  
according to the definite plan  
and foreknowledge of God,  
you crucified and killed by  
the hands of lawless men.

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**One does NOT plan a  
catastrophe.**



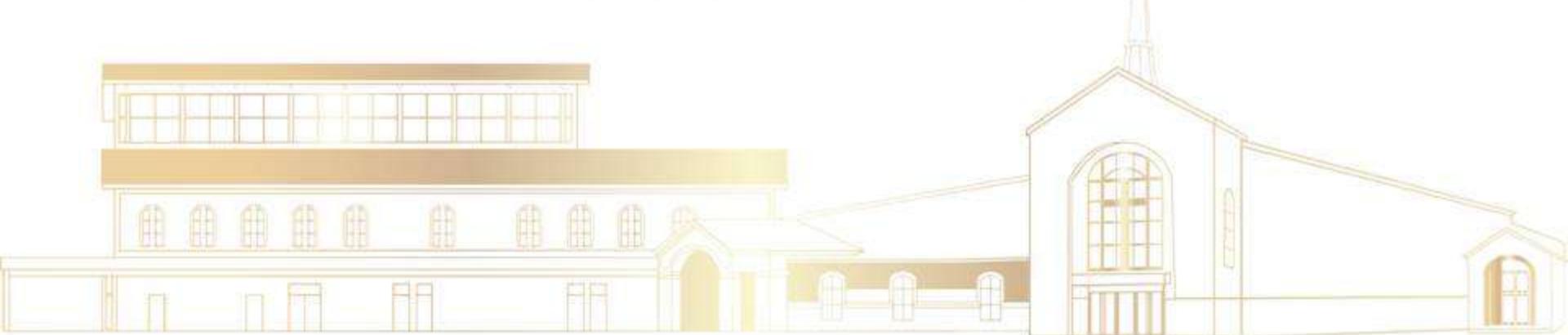
**It [the death of Christ] is the unjust lynching  
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how the Apostles spoke of the  
crucifixion of Jesus in the book of Acts.**

**John**

**10:15-17**

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**Is Zahnd right? Was the  
death of Christ the  
unjust lynching of an  
innocent man?**



just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and **I lay down my life for the sheep.** <sup>16</sup> And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because **I lay down my life that I may take it up again.**

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**In what way was  
Christ innocent?**

**And in what way wasn't  
he innocent?**

*1967 - 2017*



**Christ was perfect—He had  
done nothing worthy of  
death.**

**God made Him who knew no  
sin—sin. Christ died for our  
sins.**

*1967 - 2017*



# 2 Corinthians 5:21

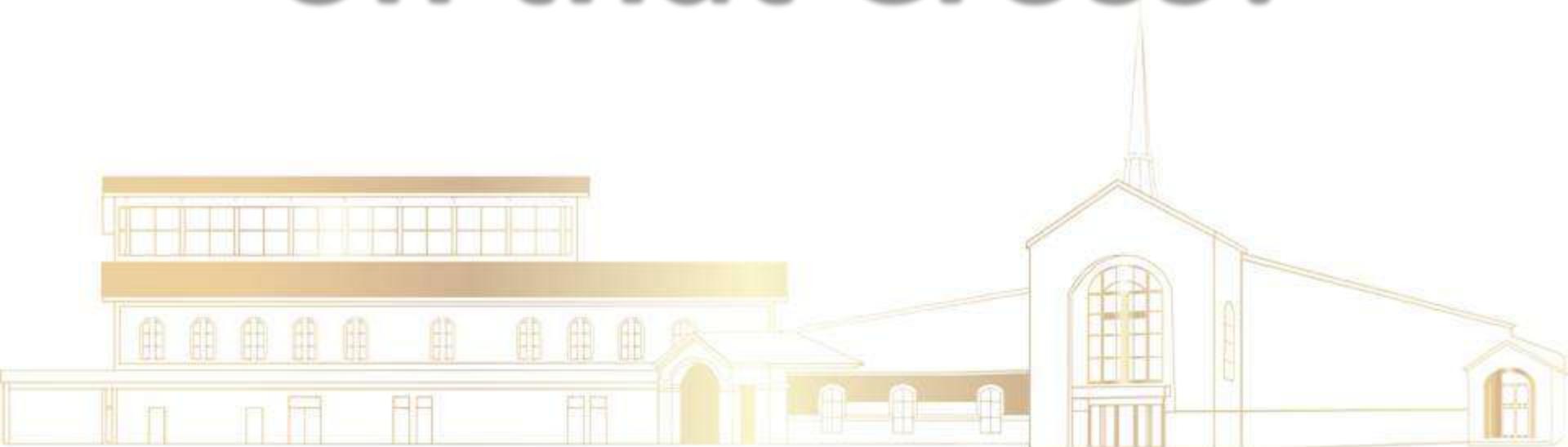
For our sake he [God]  
made him [Jesus] to be sin  
who knew no sin, so that  
in him we might become  
the righteousness of God.

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# What happened on that Cross?



# What Happened on the Cross

- **Revelation (Demonstration)**
- **Redemption (Freed from Captivity)**
- **Ransom (Bought)**
- **Replacement (For Our Sins)**
- **Reconciliation (Atonement)**
- **Remission (Forgiveness)**

1967 - 2017



# Romans 5:8 (NASB)

But God demonstrates  
His own love toward us,  
in that while we were  
yet sinners, Christ died  
for us.

1967 - 2017



# Ephesian 1:7 (ESV)

In him we have  
redemption through his  
blood, the forgiveness of  
our trespasses, according  
to the riches of his grace,

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# John 1:29

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, **“Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”**

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# Matthew 20:28

just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, **and to give His life a ransom for many.”**

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**For a ransom to be a  
payment you need a  
currency—what was the  
currency?**



# Acts 20:28

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God **which He purchased with His own blood.**

1967 - 2017



# Matthew 26:28 (NKJV)

For this is My blood of  
the new covenant,  
which is shed for many  
**for the remission of  
sins.**

1967 - 2017





# Philippians 2:8

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- he humbled himself,
- and became obedient unto death,
- even the death of the cross.