




# **PARADOXES OF THE CROSS**

**John 11:45-53**



# What Is A Paradox?

- G. K. Chesterton said a paradox is “truth standing on its head to get attention.”
  - Definition: “An apparently contradictory statement, seemingly against common sense, that is, in fact, true” (Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 1956).
  - Greek word ‘paradokeow’ - ‘para’, beyond, beside, contrary to; ‘dokeow’, opinion; therefore “beyond opinion.”
  - Ralph Waldo Emerson - “A man may love a paradox without losing either his wit or sanity.”
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# Perspectives:

- “In the year of Rome 784, April 7 at nine AM, by order of our supreme emperor’s governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate, we did execute by crucifixion a minor Hebrew revolutionary of Nazareth. He had been tried and found guilty of treason, having stirred up a small number of our subjects in and around the environs of Jerusalem. Upon the arrest of this criminal, the followers of this insurrectionist were dispersed. It is believed we have heard the last of this matter. Signed: Maximus Corpus, Centurion; report filed, April 8, 784 AUC.”



# Perspectives:

- “In the fullness of time, God sent His Divine Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer, to voluntarily pay the price of our sins by allowing himself to be sacrificed upon a Roman cross. This act of atonement took place by Divine will at a time that Deity determined and decreed.”
- Gal. 4:4-5; John 3:16-17, 10:14-18



# Perspectives:

- Gal. 4:4-5 - “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”




# Perspectives:

- John 3:16-17 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”



# Perspectives:

- John 10:14-18 - “I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.  
15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.  
16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. 17 Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”
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# **GREATEST ACT OF HATE**

# **GREATEST ACT OF LOVE**

- Great hate
  - John 15:18 - “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.
  - 25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’”



# **GREATEST ACT OF HATE GREATEST ACT OF LOVE**

- How much hate?
  - John 15:19 - “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”
- Regardless of consequences
  - John 15:23 - “He who hates Me hates My Father also.”



# **GREATEST ACT OF HATE**

# **GREATEST ACT OF LOVE**

- Why so much hate?
  - John 15:22 - “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.”
  - 24 - “If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.”



# **GREATEST ACT OF HATE**

# **GREATEST ACT OF LOVE**

- John 10:11-13 - “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.”



# GREATEST ACT OF HATE GREATEST ACT OF LOVE

- Rom. 5:8-10 - “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”



## **A PREMEDITATED MURDER A PREDESTINED SACRIFICE**

- John 11:49-50 - “And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.”
- John 11:53 - “Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.”



## **A PREMEDITATED MURDER A PREDESTINED SACRIFICE**

- John 11:56-57 - “Then they sought Jesus, and spoke among themselves as they stood in the temple, What do you think--that He will not come to the feast? 57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He was, he should report it, that they might seize Him.”



## **A PREMEDITATED MURDER A PREDESTINED SACRIFICE**

- John 11:51-52 - “Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, 52 and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.”



## **A PREMEDITATED MURDER A PREDESTINED SACRIFICE**

- John 10:17-18 - “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”



## **A PREMEDITATED MURDER A PREDESTINED SACRIFICE**

- Heb. 9:11-12, 14 - “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”



## **A PREMEDITATED MURDER A PREDESTINED SACRIFICE**

- Matt. 26:52-54 - “But Jesus said to him, Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? 54 How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”



## **GREATEST ACT OF SIN GREATEST CURE FOR SIN**

- Hatred, lying, conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy against God, perjury, betrayal, extortion, treason, assault and battery, insurrection, corruption of a witness, corruption of a judge, bribery, countless violations of the law of Moses, and murder of an innocent man.



## **GREATEST ACT OF SIN GREATEST CURE FOR SIN**

- Rom. 3:23-26 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”



## **GREATEST ACT OF REBELLION BY MAN**

## **GREATEST CONTROL OF MAN BY GOD**

- Psalm 2:1-3 - “Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.”
- Mark 12:1-12



## GREATEST ACT OF REBELLION BY MAN

## GREATEST CONTROL OF MAN BY GOD

- Acts 4:25-28 - “By the mouth of Your servant David have said: Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? 26 The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the LORD and against His Christ. 27 For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.”
- Acts 2:36 - “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”



# **PHYSICAL BLOOD STAINS SPIRITUAL BLOOD SAVES**

- Christ's physical blood did nothing for those who crucified him. They were, in all likelihood, covered with it, but they were not saved by it.



# **PHYSICAL BLOOD STAINS SPIRITUAL BLOOD SAVES**

- Heb. 10:4-7 - “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, Behold, I have come--In the volume of the book it is written of Me--To do Your will, O God.”



# **PHYSICAL BLOOD STAINS SPIRITUAL BLOOD SAVES**

- Heb. 10:12 - “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.”
- 14 - “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”
- 19 - “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus.”
- 22 - “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

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

