The Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross and Its Role in God's Plan for the Salvation of the Soul

The sacrifice on the cross is part of God's plan, and it has a very clearly defined place within it. We cannot diminish the importance of the sacrifice on the cross, because without it no one can come to salvation.

God's plan provides for the restoration of sinful man, and this includes cleansing from sin through the sacrifice on the cross. Yet God's plan is far richer than that. It is not limited to the cleansing of sins through the Lord's sacrifice; it also aims at the perfecting of our character. We believe it is perfectly clear to everyone that sinful man could never pay the price of redemption by his own good works. (Ephesians 2:9) Someone without sin had to die for this, and that someone was the Lord Jesus. (…holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners. Hebrews 7:26)

Redemption and Cleansing from Sin

Scripture tells us that the Son of God agreed to die on the cross so that we could be set free from the devil's dominion, cleansed from our sins and reconciled to God, so that we could be redeemed, and so that being born again and being brought into His Kingdom would become possible. (…to give his life a ransom for many. Matthew 20:28)

The work of the cross is God's gift to everyone who repents of his evil deeds, denies himself and puts his trust in Him. No one can bring his own works to earn the forgiveness of sins. (For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9) The sacrifice on the cross makes forgiveness of sins and redemption possible. (Who… hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13)

The Work of Restoring the Image of Christ

The Lord Jesus' sacrifice does this so that we can be placed in a new state, one in which He can work with us through the Holy Spirit to restore and sanctify us. (…sanctification of the Spirit. 1 Peter 1:2; …are changed into the same image… even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18)

The sacrifice on the cross opens the way into His school, and it marks the beginning of discipleship for everyone who decides to deny himself and enter into covenant with the Lord. While we are in the process of being changed, until we come to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ, the sins we commit accidentally, unintentionally, are cleansed by the Lord's blood. (But if we walk in the light… we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus

Christ his Son cleanseth us… 1 John 1:7)

The Lord's sacrifice will be of no use to us if, after being born again and entering the new covenant, we sin wilfully. (If we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins… Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? Hebrews 10:26, 29)

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