The Sacrifice of the Lord Jesus and Its Role in the Plan of Salvation

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

God's plan is to restore sinful man, and that restoration includes cleansing from sin through the sacrifice on the cross. But God's plan is far richer than that. It is not limited to cleansing us from our sins through the Lord's sacrifice; it also aims at perfecting our character. We believe it is perfectly clear to everyone that sinful man could never pay the price of redemption by his 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)

Scripture tells us that the Son of God agreed to die on the cross so that we could be set free from the dominion of the devil, cleansed from our sins, reconciled to God and redeemed, and so that we could be born again and brought over into His Kingdom. (…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 trusts in Him. No one can come with 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 Lord Jesus' sacrifice does this so that we can be placed in a new state, in which He can work with us through the Holy Spirit to restore and sanctify us. (…sanctification of the Spirit. 1 Peter 1:2; …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 is the beginning of discipleship for anyone 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 fullness of Christ, the sins we commit by accident, without meaning to, are cleansed by the blood of the Lord. (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. (For 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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