Did Christ Die In Vain

Intro: Gal. 2:21 “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.” There is always something sad about the idea of death. Every home has been touched with its grief. Yet, what greater tragedy when death is in vain.

1. Illustration: family killed by drunken driver.
2. Over 1900 years ago Christ Jesus was take by wicked and cruel hands of men and crucified outside the walls of Jerusalem.
   a. Luke 23:33 “And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.”
   b. John 1:11 “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”
   c. Yet, this was in fulfillment to the purpose of God from before the foundation of the world.
   d. It was prophesied by God throughout the Old Testament how that Christ should die; cf. 1 Cor. 15:3 “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;”
3. Paul, in our text reveals something very startling concerning His death, the possibility of it being in vain.
   a. Was His death in vain, wasted, worthless?
   b. Yes, if certain doctrines are true and if certain conditions exist.

I. IF THE LAW IS STILL BINDING, CHRIST DIED IN VAIN.
   A. Through the years many have insisted that Christians are under the law (of Moses).
      1. The Judaizers in Paul’s day; Gal. 4:21 “Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?”
      2. The Sabbatarians, the Seventh-Day Adventist, and many denomination-alist of today.
   B. Many scriptures emphasize that we are loosed from the old law.
      1. Heb. 10:9 “Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.”
      2. Col. 2
      3. Eph. 2
      5. Mat. 5:17-18 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”
   C. Two scriptures make in unmistakably clear that the ten commandments were annulled together with the other parts of the law.
      1. 2 Cor. 3:7 “But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away;”
      2. Rom. 7:6-7 “But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.”
shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, *Thou shalt not covet.*

**D. Gal. 2:21** "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness *come* by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."

1. *Mat. 5:17* “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.”
2. *Gal. 4:4* “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,”

**II. IF THE CHURCH IS NON-ESSENTIAL, CHRIST DIED IN VAIN.**

**A. Many today deny the necessity of the church and ridicule the emphasis gospel preachers place upon it.**

1. They say, “Exalt Christ, not the church,” “Give us Christ, not the church.”
2. We live in an age of anti-establishment.
3. Those who are lax in attendance, show by their actions that they believe the church to be non-essential.

**B. But, the church owes its very existence to the death of Christ.**

1. *Acts 20:28* “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
2. *Eph. 5:25, 23* “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;... 23For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”
3. Since Jesus died for the church, if the church is unnecessary, then Christ died in vain.

**III. IF RELIGIOUS DIVISION IS RIGHT, CHRIST DIED IN VAIN.**

**A. The majority extol denominationalism; “Join the church of your choice,” “one church is as good as another,” etc.**

**B. But, Christ died to unite all the saved in one body.**

1. *Eph. 2:16* “And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby;”
2. *John 17:20-21* “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”

**C. The early church had unity, not division.**

1. Upon obedience they were added to the church; *Acts 2:41, 47* “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.... 47Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”
2. *Acts 2:46* “And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,”
3. *Acts 4:32* “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.”
IV. IF THE DOCTRINE OF PREDESTINATION AS GENERAL Y TAUGHT BY MAN IS CORRECT, CHRIST DIED IN VAIN.

A. Notice the doctrine:
1. God, before He created the world, decided that certain individuals would be saved and certain individuals would be lost.
2. There is nothing that man can do to change his state.

B. Certainly the doctrine of predestination is taught in the Scriptures (Rom. 8, 9, 11; Eph. 1; 1 Pet. 1), but not as man has advanced the theory.
1. Such would make Christ’s death in vain.
2. Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
3. 1 John 2:1-2 “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

V. IF THERE IS NO FUTURE RESURRECTION, CHRIST DIED IN VAIN.

A. There has ever been those who have denied the resurrection.
1. Mat. 22:23 “The same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him,”
2. 1 Cor. 15:12 “Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?”
3. 2 Tim. 2:17-18 “And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”
4. The modernist, materialist, and those believing the Max King doctrine of today.

B. But such makes Christ’s death in vain for He died to guarantee a resurrection.
1. John 11:25 “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:”
2. Col. 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”
3. 1 Cor. 15:1-4, 20, 23 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures;... 20But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.... 21But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.”
4. There could be no resurrection without a death.
VI. IF I AM LOST, CHRIST DIED IN VAIN.

A. Though many today deny that man will ever be lost, the Bible teaches that many will be lost eternally.

1. Mat. 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

2. 2 The. 1:6-9 “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

B. However, it is not God’s will that any be lost.

1. 1 Tim. 2:4 “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

2. 2 Pet. 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

C. Thus Christ died that we might be saved.

1. Rom. 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

2. 1 Cor. 15:1-2 “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”

3. Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”

4. Thus, if I am lost Christ died in vain.

Conclusion: Did Christ die in vain? Only you can answer that question. Obey the truth of God’s Word and allow the death of Christ to save you.