

Why did Jesus live?

Why did Jesus live? At Easter we focus on the significance of the death and resurrection of Christ and it is right and proper that we do. However, what about all of Jesus's life before He died on the cross? Why is that important? In this study we will focus on how Jesus came, as our representative, to perfectly obey the Father, that His righteousness might be credited to all who put their faith in Him. A righteousness without which we have no hope of eternal life.

Romans 5:12, 18-19

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass [Adam's] led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness [Jesus's] leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's [Adam's] disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's [Jesus's] obedience the many will be made righteous.

Galatians 2:16

¹⁶ yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

In the beginning God created Adam, appointing him as our representative. Our destiny, for good or ill, resting on his obedience to God's command (Genesis 2:15-17).

READ ROMANS 5:12;18-19. Mark every reference to **SIN** (including synonyms) with a , underline the word **ONE**, and mark every reference to **ALL** with a .

V12 How did sin and death come into the world?

Why did death spread to us all?

V18 What led to our condemnation?

What leads to our justification and life?

V19 How were we made sinners?

How can we be made righteous (justified)?

JUSTIFIED - When God not only forgives our sins but credits us with Christ's righteousness, merited by His life of perfect obedience for us, as our representative.

However, being justified is not automatic.

READ GALATIANS 2:16. Mark every reference to **JUSTIFIED** with a ✓, **FAITH** with a ↑, and underline the phrase **WORKS OF THE LAW**.

V16—How are we not justified?

How are we justified?

FAITH - putting full confidence in someone.

WORKS OF THE LAW - putting our confidence in our obedience to God's Law.

Whose obedience are you relying on to be justified - your own or Christ's?

Luke 4:1-2

¹ And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil.

FURTHER READING:

Luke 4:14-21, Isaiah 61:1-3, Isaiah 42:1-4, Isaiah 11:1-5, Acts 10:34-43.

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 5:7-10

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, ¹⁰ being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Before looking at the completeness of Christ's obedience on our behalf, let's pause and ask the question: how did Jesus obey?

READ Luke 4:1-2. Mark every reference to **JESUS** with a **†**, and the **HOLY SPIRIT** with a **☪**.

V1-2 List what you learn about Jesus's relationship with the Holy Spirit?

Jesus, although fully God and fully man, obeyed as a human being empowered by the Spirit, the same Spirit that indwells us, His disciples, so we can obey Him.

Let's turn now to look at the obedience of Christ on our behalf in more detail. Firstly, let's look at Jesus's perfect record in resisting temptation.

READ Hebrews 4:14-16. Mark every reference to **JESUS** (including synonyms) with a **†**, and **WE / US** with a **□**.

V15 How much was Jesus tempted?

What was the result?

V16 What are we, Christ's disciples, to do when tempted?

What happens when we do?

When you fail, do you run towards or away from God?

Secondly, we see Christ's obedience maintained through ever-increasing suffering.

READ Hebrews 5:7-10. Mark every reference to **JESUS** (including pronouns) with a **†**, and **PERFECT** with a **✓**.

V7 How did Jesus offer up prayers to the Father?

What insight does this give us on what it meant for Jesus to obey?

How should that encourage us to look to Him in times of testing?

V8 How did Jesus learn obedience?

What can we expect as His disciples?

V9 How did Jesus become the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him?

Hebrews 2:10

¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Philippians 3:8-9

⁸ Indeed, I [Paul] count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith

READ Hebrews 2:10. Mark **FOUNDER OF THEIR SALVATION** (referring to Jesus) with a **†**, and **PERFECT** with a **✓**.

How does this verse help us understand what Jesus 'being made perfect' in Hebrews 5:9 means?

Jesus learned obedience through what He suffered. His obedience tested more and more as His sufferings intensified. Jesus passed each test. His obedience perfected, brought to completion, as He remained obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

We finish this study with the testimony of the apostle Paul. Reminding us that when all is said and done, that the greatest treasure we can have is Christ and His righteousness.

READ Philippians 3:8-9. Mark every reference to **JESUS / CHRIST** (including pronouns) with a **†**, and to **I / MY** (including pronouns) referring to Paul with a **☐**.

V8 What did Paul value most?

V9 What did Paul gain in Christ worth the loss of everything else?

How valuable is Christ and His righteousness to you?

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

We hope you have found this study beneficial. We know that these short studies will not answer all the questions you may have or cover everything, but hope you've been inspired to further study God's Word.

Below are some questions, if you would like to use them for further reflection:

How does your heart feel about the truth of what Christ has done for you?

Whose obedience are you relying on to be justified?

How does being justified change how you relate to God and others?

About this study...

This resource has been designed to allow you to jump into God's Word and study it closely. It requires no preparation, and provides you with a structure to study a passage, with questions to help you think and reflect on it.

This study gives you a small insight into the world of inductive Bible study through three key parts:

Observe - What does the text say?

Understand - What does the text mean?

Apply - What does this mean for me?

By using this approach, we can study the Bible in a way that allows us to know God deeply, and to live differently.

About Precept Ireland...

Precept was founded in 1970 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and now works in 160 countries, and has Bible study material translated in over 70 languages. In 2001 Precept was established in Ireland, and has grown through it's mission to engage people in relationship with God through knowing His Word. Precept Ireland seeks to resource and train Bible study leaders to help students like you discover God's truth for yourself and be transformed by it. With more than 250 unique titles ranging from zero to five hours of weekly homework, Precept has a Bible study that meets you where you are.

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Do you wish others were learning to study God's Word with you? We also provide Leader Training sessions to equip people with the skills needed to lead a Precept Bible study.

Get in touch with us to see how we can help you or your church.

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