

11th of December 2016

## The nature of Christ – Pt 3 Selfless in life and death

We previously established that Christ was born of a virgin, was “tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Heb.4: 15), was God manifest in the flesh, knew no sin, was made sin for us, He bare our sin in His own body on the tree, and washed us clean in His blood. In this teaching we establish that Christ was selfless in life and death, where He was obedient to the Father even unto death, and His death and resurrection were for us.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. Christ was obedient to the Father even unto death.

“Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done” (Lk.22: 42).

See also: Matt.26: 39 & Mk.14: 36.

And the Father had a purpose in His Son’s death, which if “the princes of this world knew...they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1Cor.2: 8).

### 2. Christ’s death was for us.

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

See also: Rom.6: 10 and 1Cor.15: 3.

And the Father’s purpose was that Jesus would die for us, He would be the sacrifice for our sins. Nothing else would appease the Father’s wrath, not the blood of goats, bulls, or the wine that is drunk at the Roman Catholic MASS, but only Christ’s one-off sacrifice on the cross.

### 3. Christ was raised from the dead for our justification.

“Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification” (Rom.4: 25).

Jesus defeated death when He was raised from the dead and He was also raised for our justification (to make us as if we had never sinned). And so His resurrection was as much needed for our salvation, our right standing before God, as was His death that washed away our sin. Because “if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are still in your sins” (1Cor.15: 17).

Additional comments on our three points.

Mohammed was disobedient to his father Allah, his death was for nobody, and he was never raised from the dead for us either. And whereas after His crucifixion Christ spent three days in the heart of the earth (Matt.12: 40), hence “his soul was not left in hell” (Acts 2: 31), Mohammed is still in the flames of hell, weeping, walling and gnashing his teeth (Matt.13: 50 & 25: 30).

Applying the teaching to our life today.

When a lost person today receives Christ and believes in his heart the gospel of Christ crucified, he becomes a new creature in Christ and is then a beneficiary of Christ’s selfless life and death. Let us not forget to share with the young babes in Christ that their Saviour was selfless in life and death, and such an example demands a response from them, as it does from us.

Question to think about.

What can we do in response to such selflessness?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Present our bodies as a living sacrifice each day, die daily (1Cor.15: 31), and live as if we are crucified with Christ (Gal.2: 20). Or as the hymn “When I survey the Wondrous Cross” concludes “Demands my soul, my life, my all.” May we all take a fresh look at Christ’s selfless life and death, and respond from our heart accordingly.