

1. Why Was Jesus Crucified? Because He Was Suffering Our Sins (Matthew 27:27-44).
  - a. Jesus had no sins of His own.
    - i. 27:24 "I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it."
    - ii. Luke 24:3 "I find no fault in this man."
  - b. Jesus was suffering as a condemned Man for our sins.
    - i. Isa. 53:4-6 "Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid upon him the iniquity of us all."
    - ii. Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."
    - iii. Isaiah 64:6 "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."
    - iv. Ecclesiastes 7:20 "There is not a just man upon the earth that doeth good and sinneth not."
2. Why Was Jesus Forsaken by God? Because He Was Bearing Our Separation from God (Matthew 27:45-46).
  - a. Why would God forsake His Son in His hour of need, when Jesus was doing the will of God?
    - i. Matthew 26:39 "And he went a little further and fell on his face, and prayed saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."
    - ii. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."
  - b. The Penalty for Sin is Death, eternal separation from God.
    - i. Gen. 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."
    - ii. Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."
    - iii. Revelation 21:8 "...and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Matthew 25:41, 46 "everlasting fire" "everlasting punishment"
  - c. The Penalty for Sin is Not Good Works!
    - i. Ephesians 2:8-9 "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."
    - ii. Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost!"
  - d. We are already dead in Sins.
    - i. Ephesians 2:1 "dead in trespasses and sins."
    - ii. Ephesians 4:18 "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:"
    - iii. John 3:3 "Verily...I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
    - iv. Our need is to be born again, spiritually into God's family!
  - e. Jesus suffered infinite separation from God on our behalf!
3. Why Did Jesus Rise Again? Because His Payment for Our Sins Is Complete! (Matthew 27:48-51)
  - a. Jesus cried out, "It is finished" (48-50; cf. John 19:30a).
    - i. Hebrews 10:10-18 "one sacrifice" "Once for all" "For ever"
  - b. The veil of the temple was rent in two; we have access to the throne of God (51; cf. Heb. 10:19-22).
  - c. Jesus rose from the dead, proving His work of redemption was done (Matthew 28:1-7).
  - d. Jesus fulfilled His promise
    - i. John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"
  - e. Illustration: The Matchless Pearl

## Conclusion:

1. You can have confidence that your sins are forgiven (John 19:30; 1 John 1:7)!
2. You can have confidence that you never have to fear the wrath of God (John 3:16)!
3. You can have confidence that you have an eternal relationship with God that can never be taken from you (John 11:25-26).

### The Matchless Pearl -- Author Unknown

David Morse - American missionary to India - became great friends with a pearl-diver, Rambhau. Many an evening he spent in Rambhau's cabin reading to him from the Bible, and explaining to him God's way of salvation.

Rambhau enjoyed listening to the Word of God, but whenever the missionary tried to get Rambhau to accept Christ as his Savior - he would shake his head and reply, "Your Christian way to heaven is too easy for me! I cannot accept it. If ever I should find admittance to heaven in that manner - I would feel like a pauper there...like a beggar who has been let in out of pity. I may be proud - but I want to deserve, I want to earn my place in heaven -- and so I am going to work for it."

Nothing the missionary could say seemed to have any effect on Rambhau's decision, and so quite a few years slipped by. One evening, however, the missionary heard a knock on his door, and on going to open it he found Rambhau there.

"Come in, dear friend," said Morse.

"No," said the pearl-diver. "I want you to come with me to my house, Sahib -- I have something to show you. Please do not say 'No'."

"Of course I'll come," replied the missionary. As they neared his house, Rambhau said: "In a week's time I start working for my place in heaven; I am leaving for Delhi - and I am going there on my knees."

"Man, you are crazy! It's nine hundred miles to Delhi, and the skin will break on your knees, and you will have blood-poisoning or leprosy before you get to Bombay."

"No, I must get to Delhi," affirmed Rambhau, "and the immortals will reward me for it! The suffering will be sweet - for it will purchase heaven for me!"

"Rambhau, my friend - you can't. How can I bear you to do it - when Jesus Christ has suffered and died to purchase heaven for you!"

But the old man could not be moved. "You are my dearest friend on earth, Sahib Morse. Through all these years you have stood by me in sickness, in want - you have been sometimes my only friend. But even you cannot turn me from my desire to purchase eternal bliss...I must go to Delhi!"

Inside the hut Morse was seated in the very chair Rambhau had specially built for him - where on so many occasions he had read to him the Bible.

Rambhau left the room to return soon with a small but heavy English strongbox. "I have had this box for years," said he, "and I keep only one thing in it. Now I will tell you about it, Sahib Morse. I once had a son..."

"A son! Why, Rambhau, you have never before said a word about him!"

"No, Sahib, I couldn't." Even as he spoke the diver's eyes were moistened.

"Now I must tell you, for soon I will leave, and who knows whether I shall ever return? My son was a diver too. He was the best pearl diver on the coasts of India. He had the swiftest dive, the keenest eye, the strongest arm, the longest breath of any man who ever sought for pearls.

What joy he brought to me! Most pearls, as you know, have some defect or blemish only the expert can discern, but my boy always dreamed of finding the 'perfect' pearl - one beyond all that was ever found. One day he found it! But even when he saw it - he had been under water too long... That pearl cost him his life, for he died soon after."

The old pearl diver bowed his head. For a moment his whole body shook, but there was no sound. "All these years," he continued, "I have kept this pearl - but now I am going, not to return, and to you, my best friend - I am giving my pearl."

The old man worked the combination on the strongbox and drew from it a carefully wrapped package. Gently opening the cotton, he picked up a mammoth pearl and placed it in the hand of the missionary.

It was one of the largest pearls ever found off the coast of India, and glowed with a luster and brilliance never seen in cultured pearls. It would have brought a fabulous sum in any market.

For a moment the missionary was speechless and gazed with awe. "Rambhau! What a pearl!"

"That pearl, Sahib, is perfect," replied the Indian quietly. The missionary looked up quickly with a new thought: Was not this the very opportunity and occasion he had prayed for - to make Rambhau understand the value of Christ's sacrifice? So he said, designedly, "Rambhau, this is a wonderful pearl, an amazing pearl. Let me buy it. I would give you ten thousand dollars for it."

"Sahib! What do you mean?"

"Well, I will give you fifteen thousand dollars for it, or if it takes more - I will work for it."

"Sahib," said Rambhau, stiffening his whole body, "this pearl is beyond price. No man in all the world has money enough to pay what this pearl is worth to me. On the market a million dollars could not buy it. I will not sell it to you. You may only have it as a gift."

"No, Rambhau, I cannot accept that. As much as I want the pearl, I cannot accept it that way. Perhaps I am proud, but that is too easy. I must pay for it, or work for it..."

The old pearl-diver was stunned. "You don't understand at all, Sahib. Don't you see. My only son gave his life to get this pearl, and I wouldn't sell it for any money. Its worth is in the life-blood of my son. I cannot sell this - but I can give it to you. Just accept it in token of the love I bear you."

The missionary was choked, and for a moment could not speak. Then he gripped the hand of the old man. "Rambhau," he said in a low voice, "don't you see? My words are just what you have been saying to God all the time."

The diver looked long and searchingly at the missionary, and slowly, slowly he began to understand. "God is offering you salvation as a free gift," said the missionary. "It is so great and priceless that no man on earth can buy it. Millions of dollars are too little. No man on earth could earn it. His life would be millions of years too short. No man is good enough to deserve it. It cost God the life-blood of His only Son to make the entrance for you into heaven. In a million years, in a hundred pilgrimages, you could not earn that entrance. All you can do is to accept it as a token of God's love for you - a sinner."

"Rambhau, of course I will accept the pearl in deep humility, praying God that I may be worthy of your love. Rambhau, won't you accept God's great gift of heaven, too, in deep humility, knowing it cost Him the death of His Son to offer it to you?"

Great tears were now rolling down the cheeks of the old man. The veil was beginning to lift. "Sahib, I see it now. I have believed in the doctrine of Jesus for the last two years, but I could not believe that His salvation was free. Now I understand. Some things are too priceless to be bought or earned. Sahib, I will accept His salvation!"