

THURSDAY

Crucified for Us

- Interesting point in lesson = Greek word = thelo
 - means “to will”= “to choose/desire”
- **Matthew 22:3** = parable of banquet = many whom good king called “were not willing (thelo)”
- Had no desire to attend his son’s wedding feast
 - choose to reject invitation
- Shortly before Christ was crucified, He passionately expressed
 - His desire to save His people,
 - Expressed His sorrow = Jew’s apathy/rejection of His invitation

Matthew 23:37 = “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! (thelo)

ASBG QUOTE: Yet, Christ went to the cross for these people and for us. Amazing love! While human sin merits death, God Himself (in Christ) paid the price and has made a way to repair the ruptured relationship between heaven and earth. Meanwhile, He continues to bestow His love on us, though He is under no obligation beyond His own free commitment to do so. **UNQUOTE**

John 10:17–18 ¹⁷“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

Galatians 2:20 have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and **gave Himself for me.**

ABSG: QUOTE In the ultimate display of God’s love—the Cross, we see that Christ gave Himself for us of **His own free will**.

Christ laid down His life of His “own initiative.”

No one took His life from Him;

He freely offered it, according to the plan of redemption

agreed upon in heaven before the foundation of the world. **UNQUOTE**

- God did not create evil = He did not plan for it to happen
- Because He is omniscient = all-knowing = He foresaw existence of evil

2 Timothy 1:9 Paul declared / God saved us, “not according to our works but according to His own **purpose and grace** which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began”

- **Grace**— God’s unmerited favor that cannot be earned by works.
- **Before time began**—before God created the cosmos and laid the foundation of our world, He planned to save all by grace.
- God’s plan to redeem humanity = has always been
 - salvation by grace thru faith = IN MESSIAH/CHRIST
- This good-news **gospel** / referred to as =
 - “everlasting gospel” = **Revelation 14:6**.
- Before He created world = our Creator God affirmed
 - He would become/ Substitute, taking penalty for our sins.
- In anticipation of cross, **Revelation 13:8** “Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.”
- **Hebrews 13:20** identifies Christ’s blood as “the blood of the everlasting covenant.”
- **GOOD NEWS** /salvation is that God—in Person of Jesus Christ—ratified = sign/sealed/delivered = His everlasting covenant
 - of righteousness by faith = by shedding His blood
 - to cover sin-debt of human race.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- Great exchange of entering into covenant w/ Lord
- He bore our sins on cross = in exchange—gives us His righteousness.

Romans 3:23–24 ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴**being justified freely** [DECLARED NOT GUILTY] by His grace

- thru the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
- His perfect record / obedience = Imputed / credited to those
- Who willingly (telo) enter into covenant relationship w/Him
 - By Accepting His call = accepting Jesus as personal SAVIOR
 - Holy Spirit indwells us = Christ lives in our hearts by faith
- Infuses His strength within us = empowering us to love and obey
- Changes our character = to become like Christ
 - walk in His footsteps of righteousness
 - **John 15:10** f you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
- His love / His grace = still amazes me
- Stand in holy wonder of all He has done / continues to do

2 Peter 3:9 ⁹The Lord is...longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

1 Timothy 2:4 God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

ABSG QUOTE God invites everyone into a love relationship with Him, but only those who freely accept the invitation enjoy the eternal results. **UNQUOTE**

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

