

# World-Wide Evangelism

Postfach 500929 · 60397 Frankfurt

Bank: EKK

IBAN: DE85 5206 0410 0004 0039 93 BIC: GENODEF1EK1

www.wwevangel.org



World-Wide Evangelism

## The day the light went out

*From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. (Matthew 27:45)*

Jesus, the light of the world, died. The light went out. The light turned to darkness. He who knew no sin became sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21), so that we could become the righteousness of God. He who was never sick bore our diseases and became sick for us (Isaiah 53:10), so that we can be healed through his wounds. Literally it says: *He, God, made him [Jesus] sick.* Jesus, who never knew a curse, became a curse for us (Galatians 3:13) when he died on the cross, so that we can be as blessed as Abraham. He who was rich became poor for us, so that we, through his poverty, could be become as rich as him (2 Corinthians 8:9). On the cross, Jesus bore the sins of all people ever. He paid for our guilt with his blood, and the punishment we deserved came upon him. He became our substitute.

On the cross, Jesus became a sinner in God's courtroom. The full judgment of God, the punishment of God and the wrath of God for the sins of the whole world erupted over Jesus. On the cross, Jesus was a lost, cursed and god-forsaken man, a sinner with our sins. He became everything we were so that we could become everything he is. At the cross, God settled the accounts with us. Our guilt was paid and atoned for. Now we can go free and never again come under God's judgment. Our guilt has been cancelled because Jesus paid the price for it. When God looks at us, he sees no more sin. *"At that time," declares the Lord, "search will be made for Israel's guilt, but there will be none, and for the sins of Judah, but none will be found"* (Jeremiah 50:20). God has removed our sins and de-sinned us, as it were. When God looks at us now, he sees no more sin. He looks for sin in our lives and can no longer find any. That is how perfectly the blood of Jesus has cleansed us. We are now as righteous, holy and pure in God's eyes as Jesus himself. We have become the righteousness of God, in Christ. How that happens can only be grasped through faith. Jesus became a sinner, so that I can become a righteous person. *In this world we are like Jesus* (1 John 4:17).

Not only have our sins been forgiven, but the power of sin has also been broken. Sin has no more power over us. Through Jesus we have been set free from the law of sin and death, since a new law is now at work in us, the law of the Spirit of life, in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). The old law of sin and death, to which we were chained, has no more power over us. We can, admittedly, still sin, but we do not have to anymore. Before it was different; we had to sin because we were slaves to sin and could not help it. In Jesus, a stronger law prevails: the law of the Spirit of life, which overrides the law of sin. If I am in space, the law of gravity has no power over me. If I come back to earth, I come under the law of gravity again. As long as I am in Christ, sin has no more power over me. That also applies to sickness and every curse in this world. The blessing is stronger than the curse and what God has blessed, no one can curse. We are no longer under the curse but under the blessing. Jesus bore the curse for us.

Adam and Eve had to live with the consequences of their sin, but God never punished them for it. He covered over their sins with the blood of animals, but Jesus paid for and eradicated these sins. Beginning with Adam's sin, right down to the last human being, Jesus purchased atonement and forgiveness for all sins. Every person is acquitted and escapes the judgment of God if they believe in the redemptive work of Jesus.

Jesus not only suffered on the cross for our sins, he also went into hell for us and suffered for us. That was the price for our sin. It was not Jesus' physical death alone that redeemed us, for sin is spiritual. We were dead in transgression and sin, and Jesus made us alive – that is meant in spiritual terms. Sin means being spiritually dead – being separated from God, cut off from the life of God. When Jesus bore my sin, he was separated from God, cut off from God, dead, not only physically but also spiritually. Just as Adam died when he sinned and was separated from God, the same happened to Jesus when he was made sin for us.

Jesus also died the second death, not only physical death. The second death is being separated from God, eternal condemnation that comes after physical death for those who have rejected Jesus. Hell is the place where those go who reject God's offer. God has no choice but to punish those people who reject Jesus. If someone who has been condemned to death is pardoned and he refuses his pardon, he is executed. Anyone who refuses God's pardon through Jesus has judged himself.

Jesus was separated from God for three days and nights. He suffered in hell for us. When our sin had been atoned and paid for, God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus was justified in the Spirit (1 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 3:18) and we have been justified and made alive with him – in the Spirit. We have risen from the dead with Jesus. We were dead in spirit and have been made alive in spirit.

Jesus went to hell like a loser and hell must have triumphed, but he came out of hell as the one who is victorious over the devil and death. If the devil had suspected what would happen, he would never have had Jesus crucified (1 Corinthians 2:8).

Samson was delivered into the hands of his enemies and they celebrated a great party. When the party reached its climax, God anointed Samson again and Samson made the whole house collapse. That is how it was in hell when Jesus rose. The devil is now disarmed and powerless. The victory of Jesus is now our victory; his authority is now our authority. Everything Jesus did has been credited to us as if we had done it. God now sees us in Christ. We have died with Jesus, our sins have been punished and judged, we have risen with Jesus, we have defeated hell, death and the devil. We now reign with Jesus, and through his name and in his name we have the victory over all the power of the enemy and nothing can harm us.

*Ekkehard Hornburg*