

From Death to Life
The Cost of Our Sin
(Romans 3:23-26; Luke 22:39-46)

Introduction: Humanity has a universal problem – sin.

- Sin is not just a mistake; it is a violation of God's holiness.
- **Romans 3:23** – *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*
- Sin carries a cost we cannot pay, but God provided a way through Jesus.

I. The weight of sin (Romans 3:23-26)

A. Sin separates us from God like a criminal is separated from society.

B. We all fall short:

- Like an archer missing the target
- Like a runner unable to finish the race

1. **James 2:10** – Breaking even one of God's laws makes us guilty of all. Have you ever told a lie? Coveted? Disobeyed a parent? Guilty!

2. Jesus took our burden and paid our sin debt on the cross.

C. God's justice and mercy meet perfectly at the cross

- **Romans 3:26** – God is both just and the justifier of those who have faith. A judge cannot let a guilty criminal go free without penalty.
- Jesus bore our punishment, satisfying God's justice while extending mercy.
- **John 8:** The woman caught in adultery – Jesus forgave her, yet justice was not ignored because He would pay her price.

II. God's universal solution for our sin

(Romans 3:24-25) Three key terms:

1. **Justification** – A legal declaration of righteousness.

- **Romans 5:1** – "Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God."
- Imagine a guilty person declared innocent because someone else took their place. That is what Jesus did for us.

2. **Redemption** – The price paid for our freedom. (Rom. 3:24)

- **Mark 10:45** – "The Son of Man... gave His life as a ransom for many."
- Like a slave bought not to be owned but to be set free. (Gal. 5:1; Eph. 2:1-6; 1 Cor. 6:20)

3. **Propitiation** – The satisfaction of God's wrath.

- **Romans 3:25** – *"God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement [propitiation], through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith."*

- **1 John 2:2** – "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins."

- Like a dam holding back a flood—Jesus absorbed the wrath so we wouldn't have to.

III. The garden of surrender: (Luke 22:39-46)

- Jesus felt the weight of sin and separation from the Father. (Mt. 27:46; Ps. 22:1; Isa. 59:2; Col. 1:21-22)

- **Luke 22:42** – "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

- Jesus was an innocent man stepping in to take our place on death row. (2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13)

- Jesus endured separation so we wouldn't have to. (Mt. 27:51; Eph. 2:13; Heb. 10:19-20; 1Tim. 2:5-6; Rom. 8:15)

IV. Acknowledge and embrace the forgiveness of our sin:

1. **Live in confidence** – We don't have to earn God's love; we are justified.

2. **Reject sin** – Since Jesus paid such a high price, don't return to slavery.

3. **Worship in gratitude** – Thanking God daily for salvation and never getting over it. (Eph. 2:8-9)

4. **Rest in security** – We will never be abandoned by God (Hebrews 13:5).

Final thought: Jesus' sacrifice means we are completely forgiven, fully accepted, adopted as God's children and eternally secure in Christ.

Romans 3:25 – "God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith."

How will you respond to His incredible gift today?