

CALL to PRAYER -

Thank the Father that He sent the Son to live for you.

Matthew 2:13-20 - Why Not Die Young?

Intro - It is a blessing to begin the New Year with the Lord's Supper on this Lord's Day. We gather on the 1st day of week according to God's command and we observe this ordinance at Christ's command. Jesus said to, "*Do this in remembrance of Me.*" When we "*do this*" (by eating this meal) we "*proclaim His death until He comes*" ^{1 Cor. 11:26}. The reason Jesus came was to die for sinners. He came to lay down His life so we might live and live in Him. I want to ask us to ponder a question as we prepare to partake of this meal and to proclaim His death..." ***Why not die young?*** There were many opportunities for Jesus to die; starting from when He was just a small child. Jesus was the sinless Son of God when Herod tried to kill Him as a toddler so...why not die young? His purpose for being here was to die so why not die young? I will go ahead and give you the short answer to this question as we begin. Dear Christian, before Jesus died for you, He lived for you. It is a blessed thing to think about, as you "*do this in remembrance of Him*" to remember that He not only died in your place, but Jesus lived in your place. He came to do what you could not do in life AND in death. Jesus is everything that we are not. He is our Substitute in life and in death. So, when you think of your sin remember your sinless Savior...if your mess-ups in life haunt you remember that Jesus came not to only die for you but also to live for you. He waited to die until just the right time...until after He had earned you a perfect righteousness. Jesus lived the only good life that has ever been lived so that He might give you His goodness. Rejoice Christian because Jesus lived for you before He died for you.

JESUS CAME TO DIE...AT THE RIGHT TIME

- Jesus had many opportunities to die when He was upon the earth.
 - Jesus was a popular guy...He was a popular guy that many people wanted to kill
 - John 5:18
 - John 7:1, 25, 30 (John 8:20, 40,59 John 10:30-33,39 John 11:8, 16, 53)
 - Luke 4:28-30
- They tried to kill Him because of:
 - His healing (He healed on the Sabbath / envious of His power)
 - His teaching (He taught against them and their tradition)
 - His proclaiming (He proclaimed that He was the Son of God and God Himself)
- The threats on Jesus' life were often and started early.
 - Herod tried to kill King Jesus as a toddler. (Matt. 2:13-20)
 - Revelation 12:4b
- Why not die young?
 - Jesus had a work to accomplish in life before He accomplished His work in death

JESUS CAME TO EARN A RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Jesus came to live a perfect life before He died a perfect death.
 - The Lamb of God must be inspected, scrutinized & tested to be without spot.

- From an early age Jesus had to be about His Father's business
 - Scripture says that Jesus grew in favor with God Luke 2:52
 - God became man and the man Christ Jesus earned favor with God the Father by honoring God and obeying His mother and step-father. Luke 2:51
 - What kind of child were you? Did you ever break the 5th commandment?
 - Jesus kept the 5th for us. He obeyed for us
- Jesus came to fulfill the Law and keep the Law for us
 - Gal. 4:4-5
 - Matt. 5:17
 - Jesus fulfilled where we failed
 - We failed in a garden Christ did God's will in a garden
 - We failed in a wilderness Christ prevailed (40 days & nights)
 - We live to break God's law. But Christ lived to keep God's law
 - He was tempted in all ways as we are but without sin Heb. 4:15
 - Ever increasing temptation because Jesus never succumbed (weight kept piling on)
 - He came to fulfill all righteousness - Matt. 3:15
 - Jesus didn't die young because He hadn't yet earned a righteousness.
- An Earned righteousness
 - Jesus learned obedience so He might give us the fruits of His obedience
 - Heb. 5:8-9
 - Jesus lived the life which we are required to live. He learned obedience and grew in favor with God. And only with Jesus is the Father well pleased.
 - Why not die young? Because He had a work to accomplish in life for us.
 - John 17:4
 - We are saved by works....Jesus' works
 - Jesus accomplished a perfect work in life so that He may give us what He earned
- Imputed righteousness by faith
 - Romans 1:16-17 the good news is that sinners get God's goodness by faith
 - 2 Cor. 5:21
 - Jesus came at just the right time and died at just the right time.
 - He died only after He totally completed the work He was sent to do and earned a perfect righteousness in life.
 - By faith we get all His goodness in life, and He takes all our badness in death
 - My sin imputed to Him & His righteousness imputed to me. a gospel swap
 - *"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness..."*
 - Dear Christian, rejoice! Jesus lived for you before He died for you
 - Let us thank Him for His life and proclaim His death in this meal.

Open / Close Communion

Fencing the Table

Examine yourself

Discern the Body

Solemn Celebration