

How Did God Provide for Man's Salvation from Sin?

In our last study, we learned that man was hopelessly condemned to die. He had disobeyed God's word, and now the penalty was being enforced. In the New Testament, the Bible tells us more about Adam's sin. Let's start today by looking at Romans 5.

The penalty for sin

Besides Adam and his wife, who else was affected by Adam's sin? (Romans 5:12)

All men

Are all men under the same penalty for sin that Adam was? Why or why not?

Yes. The penalty is death for all men. Death is ultimately a separation from God.

What part of the verse tells us how we are included in Adam's sin? (Romans 5:12)

"because all sinned" when Adam did. We were in Adam. A good cross-reference for explaining how this can be possible is Hebrews 7:4-10.

A gift from God

The Romans passage goes on to teach us that after Adam, all men had to die. But in Romans 5:15, we see the word "gift." At this point we begin to learn how God kept His earlier promise and provided man a way of salvation from sin's penalty. That way of salvation would come through a gift from God. Let's find out what the gift is.

Read Romans 5:15-19 carefully. Adam's sin is called "transgression." God's way of salvation is called "gift." The verse says, "the free gift is not like the transgression." Those two things are going to be compared in these verses.

Under the headings below write what the Bible says about each one in these verses.

	Transgression (Adam)	Gift (Jesus Christ)
v.15	Caused many to die	Abounded to the many
v.16	Resulted in condemnation	Resulted in justification (legally declared innocent)
v.17	Death reigned	Life reigned
v.19	Many were made sinners	Many were made righteous

In verses 15 and 17, we actually learn that the gift is a Person.

What is His name? The Man, Jesus Christ

Let's turn to what is probably the most familiar verse in your Bible – John 3:16. This verse will help us to answer several questions.

Why did God decide to give the gift of Jesus Christ?

He loved the world sacrificially.

Why did God send Jesus Christ to the world? (John 3:16-17)

God sent Christ into the world, so that whoever would believe in Him would not suffer the penalty for sin (death), but could have eternal life (life with God). God sent His Son so that the world could be saved from sin's penalty (3:17).

Men, who deserved death, could now have life. Men who deserved punishment could now be free of the penalty.

How is Jesus Christ able to save men from sin's penalty? (Hebrews 5:8-9)

Jesus did not save us by changing the penalty for sin. Instead, He obeyed the rules in our place and suffered the penalty for our disobedience. By obeying perfectly, He earned the right to die for man's sins.

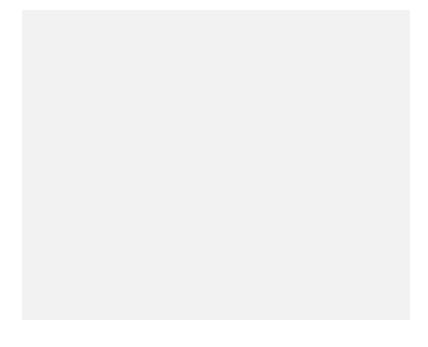
When did Jesus Christ take man's penalty for sin? (1 Peter 2:24)

When he died on the cross.

Let's finish our study today by reading through the Bible story of Jesus' death on the cross. (Matthew 27:11ff)

Memory Verse

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



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