


The Meaning of Jesus' Death
in the Epistles of Paul
--:part one:--

Our Strategy for Paul's Epistles

1. "In our present New Testament, the order of Paul's letters written to churches depends on length, beginning with the longest (Romans) and ending with the shortest (2 Thessalonians). The same principle of arrangement holds for his letters written to individuals (1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon)."¹
2. Since it would take too much time to demonstrate the order of the letters of Paul we will instead go by the outline by Robert Gundry. The ordering of the epistles is not critical for our investigation into the Scriptures that deal with the atonement.

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a - tone - ment  (ə-tōn'mənt) [Pronunciation Key](#)
n.

1. Amends or reparation made for an injury or wrong; expiation.
2. a. Reconciliation or an instance of reconciliation between God and humans.
b. **Atonement Christianity** The reconciliation of God and humans brought about by the redemptive life and death of Jesus.
3. *Obsolete* Reconciliation; concord.

Galatians

1. 1.4: freed from present evil age
2. 2.19-20a: crucified with Christ so that I am dead and he lives in me
3. 2.20b: through death he loved me and gave himself for me
4. 2.21: if justification comes through the law then Christ died for nothing
5. 3.13: Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us
6. 3.14: this was so that the blessing of Abraham may come to the Gentiles...so that we might receive the promise of the spirit through faith
7. 5.11 & 6.12: offense of the cross is that no one need be circumcised?
8. 5.24: we crucify the flesh with its passions and desires
9. 6.14: by the cross the world has been crucified to me and I to the world

1 Thessalonians

1. 5.10 Christ died for us so that we will live with him (i.e. in resurrection)

2 Thessalonians

1. No mention of Christ's death



1 Corinthians

1. 1.17: the message of the cross of Christ is powerful
2. 1.18: the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing but to those being saved it is the power of God
3. 1.23: we proclaim Christ crucified

¹ Robert H. Gundry, *A Survey of the New Testament*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003), 351.

- A. To those Jews, a stumbling block
 - B. To the Gentiles, foolishness
 - C. To those called, the power and wisdom of God
4. 2.2: he knew nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified when he came to Corinth
 5. 2.7–8: rulers of this age did not know God’s secret and hidden wisdom, if they had they would not have crucified the Lord of glory
 6. 5.7: Jesus our Passover lamb has been sacrificed therefore let us get rid of malice and evil and replace them with sincerity and truth
 7. 10.16: by drinking the cup of blessing we share in the blood of Christ; by eating the bread we share in the body of Christ; this makes one body
 8. 11.23–26: bread is his body which is for us; cup is the new covenant in his blood. As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup you proclaim his death until he comes.
 9. 15.3–4: Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures
 10. 15.56–57: sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law but through Jesus God has given us the victory

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rec-on-cile   (rĕk'ən-sīl') [Pronunciation Key](#)

v. **rec-on-ciled, rec-on-cil-ing, rec-on-ciles**



v. *tr.*

1. To reestablish a close relationship between.
2. To settle or resolve.
3. To bring (oneself) to accept: *He finally reconciled himself to the change in management.*
4. To make compatible or consistent: *reconcile my way of thinking with yours.* See Synonyms at [adapt](#).

v. *intr.*

1. To reestablish a close relationship, as in marriage: *The estranged couple reconciled after a year.*
2. To become compatible or consistent: *The figures would not reconcile.*

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jus-ti-fy   (jūs'tə-fī') [Pronunciation Key](#)

v. **jus-ti-fied, jus-ti-fy-ing, jus-ti-fies**

v. *tr.*

1. To demonstrate or prove to be just, right, or valid: *justified each budgetary expense as necessary; anger that is justified by the circumstances.*
2. To declare free of blame; absolve.
3. To free (a human) of the guilt and penalty attached to grievous sin. Used of God.
4. *Law*
 - a. To demonstrate sufficient legal reason for (an action taken).
 - b. To prove to be qualified as a bondsman.
5. *Printing* To adjust the spacing within (lines in a document, for example), so that the lines end evenly at a straight margin.