

‘FOR’

I. WHY FOR—WHY DID JESUS NEED TO DIE FOR US?

At the center of the Christian Bible, four Gospels describe the pains God has taken to defeat sin and its wages. The very shape of these Gospels tells us how much the pains matter: The Gospels are shaped, as Martin Kähler famously put it, as passion narratives with long introductions.

Accordingly, Christians have always measured sin, in part, by the suffering needed to atone for it. The ripping and writhing of a body on a cross, the bizarre metaphysical maneuver of using death to defeat death, the urgency of the summons to human beings to ally themselves with the events of Christ and with

the person of these events, and then to make that person and those events the center of their lives— these things tell us that the main human trouble is desperately difficult to fix, even for God, and that sin is the longest-running of human emergencies.

—Cornelius Plantinga, Jr.

- A. **Corruption**—the multiplying power of sin
- B. **Perversion**—destroys the purpose of things
- C. **Pollution**—Bringing together what ought to be apart
- D. **Disintegration**—division; tearing apart
- E. **Degenerative**—victims victimize
- F. **Parasite**—suck life out of others
- G. **Addiction**—Longing bent in wrong direction

**II. WHO FOR—
WHO DIED FOR US?**

- A. Savior
- B. Reconciler
- C. Redeemer
- D. Lover

**III. WHAT FOR—
WHAT POSSIBLE GOOD
CAN COME FROM
CHRIST'S DEATH
FOR US?**

- A. Satisfaction of God's Wrath
- B. Defeat of Death