

CROSSLINEYOUTH: CAMPUS CONNECT [2.2.2012]

→ YOUR MISSION:

- 1) **Point** to *Christ* as the ultimate treasure in life
- 2) **Find** out where your friends are in their faith in Christ
- 3) **Challenge** each other to know & grow in Christ
- 4) **Love** your friends & find ways to be united with them in Christ

HAVE SOMEONE OPEN IN PRAYER.

HEADS UP:

Before you get to reading the passage, explain to the group briefly who's talking in this passage and who's being talked to. Maybe... do a very brief recap of the background.

VERSE DISCUSSION:

God of our salvation, help us- for the glory of Your name.

Deliver us and atone for our sins, because of Your name.

- Psalms 79:9 HCSB

1. Let your group know this stuff: "Because of Your name" is repeated in this one verse on purpose. The writer is aware that the whole of the Bible is about God's name...or said differently, God's glory. Even when someone surrenders to God and asks to be rescued and saved by Jesus, that whole process effects the person getting rescued but is about the glory and renown of God.

Let's discuss this thought: Being forgiven & saved is **for** you but not **about** you.

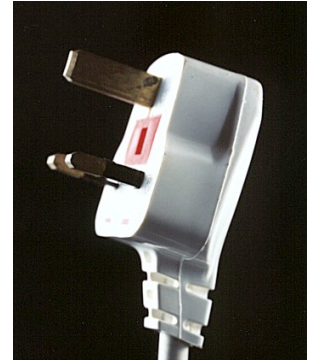
Have someone reread the verse

2. Atone isn't a super popular word. It means to make amends for something. One of claims of the Bible is that we can't ever atone for our own sin because it's too much and we have jacked up hearts (Rom. 3:10-18). Yet, a holy/sinless God seeks to atone on our behalf. *Has anyone ever offered to pay for someone else's sinful choice?* (while being innocent yourself)

WRAP IT UP: (*Home stretch*)

3. God's rescue plan to atone for the sins of the world (and you and I) was Jesus. He lived a a sinless life on our behalf, then He died the death we should have died, then He rose again proving He was/is God AND that He can offer to us forgiveness of sin and freedom from death. Let's go to Philippians 2:5-11 read about how the name of Jesus is so heavy that everyone in the world will worship it at one point in time whether they want to or not.

4. When Jesus returns, "every knee will bow" to His name. Those who trusted Him for salvation will bow and be rescued. Those who rejected Him will bow in submission and be sent away from His presence as they chose. How should we respond to this reality?



BACKGROUND

The age old consequence of sin is on display here with regards to Israel being punished for her sin. The beginning of the Psalm 79 describes the destruction that has taken place to Jerusalem, and how other nations make fun of her for her ruin. During this period in history a nation destroyed in battle meant that her god had been defeated, and for the Jews claiming to worship the one true God of the universe to now be in shambles was detrimental to the worship of God. But remember, this event takes place not because the Lord was unable to bring victory to Israel, but instead because the Israelites are being punished for their sin against God. God disciplines his people for their sin in order to bring about a change in his people.

Change through discipline is seen in the second half of the Psalm as the psalmist pleads to God to again show compassion to Israel, and bring about her restoration; as well as judge the evil nations surrounding her. In our fighter verse, Psalm 79:9, we see a cry to God for deliverance and atonement. These two ideas of deliverance and atonement go hand in hand, you can't have one without the other. Sin must be paid for which means deliverance, and deliverance means that sin has been paid for.

As a Christ follower, the same thing happening in Psalm 79 rings true in our life. In an eternal sense we are lying defeated, unable to lift ourselves because of our sin, and yet we experience deliverance (i.e. salvation) through the atonement (payment for sin) of Christ. In an earthly sense we will still struggle with sin here, which has the potential to cause tremendous damage to our life and the lives of those around us; but, through the power given us by Christ through his resurrection we have the ability to mend hurt and pain here and now despite our sin (i.e. be delivered), because of the successful payment of Jesus (i.e. atonement) which gives us the power to rebuild.

It is interesting to note the final line of Psalm 79:9, why God should deliver and atone for his people, to preserve His name. Ultimately in an eternal salvation sense or in an "I've screwed up here and now and need help" sense, the ultimate purpose of deliverance and atonement is to show who God is (God's identity being bound to His name). So, God is not only seen as a just judge (which critics of God love to bash), but also as the God who makes a way possible for people to be saved.