

Jesus Christ: The Ultimate Volunteer

- Tennessee is the Volunteer state even having an 865 (VOL) area code.
- We all volunteer to help our neighbors, community, and family.
- Revelation 13:8 – Lamb slain **before** the creation of the world. What does that Scripture mean? What exactly is God telling us? To understand this, we need to see what happened before the Trinity created the Universe.
- **Note:** I promise I will not get sidetracked into modified supralapsarianism.
- What happened before man was created: Satan and 1/3 angels removed from Heaven, (Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-18). While these refer specifically to kings of Babylon and Tyre, they also reference the spiritual power behind those kings, namely, Satan.
- In Luke 10:18, Jesus stated that He saw Satan fall like lightning out of Heaven. All of this before God created the Universe.
- Sometime later, the Triune God (Elohim) created Adam in His Image (Genesis 1:26) as eternal beings (Genesis 2:7) and had total unbroken fellowship with them (Dispensation of Innocence).
- The Fall of Man and its consequences (Sproul's Willing to Believe discussion on St. Augustine).
- Consequences then and through Eternity for Adam and Eve and all offspring: Physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23). Cut off from God's wisdom (James 3:17-18), sensuality, concupiscence, generational guilt.
- No matter what Adam and future generations did (outside of faith alone), they were slaves to sin and incapable of reconciling with God by any of their works.
- Proto-evangelism: But God already had a planned a remedy (Ephesians 1:4), stating it in Genesis 3:15 to the serpent (i.e., Promise of Messiah, the Kinsman-Redeemer) from a seed of a woman (Isaiah 7:14).
- How many of you were born from a seed of a woman? Many will raise their hands and be embarrassed.
- God's provision for covering sin and expiating His wrath: Exchange of Life/blood sacrifice to cover the effects of sin: Genesis 3:21 – animals; Exodus 12:13 – Passover; Leviticus 17:11 – Day of Atonement. Temporary and not permanent.
- God put His own skin in the game (Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 53). Jesus puts on Humanity for one overarching purpose: To offer His life to permanently cover the sins of the world.
- Because God created us in His own image, humanity is compatible with the pre-incarnate Jesus.
- Expiating a holy God's wrath: Crucial difference between finite man's sacrifice for an infinite time vs. the sacrifice of the infinite God-man (Son of man) once, lasting forever.
- Jesus had to be sinless and a God-man to be that infinite sacrifice, the propitiation for our sins (I John 2:1). Everything else would fall far short.
- Capital punishment vs. crucifixion. Capital punishment is designed to kill quickly to minimize the suffering. Crucifixion was designed to kill slowly and maximize the suffering.
- Brief discussion on what Jesus felt while dying on the cross in both physical and spiritual realms.

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- Jesus' cry: "Eloi, eloi, lama sabactani". What exactly happened at that moment in time? The spiritual transaction of becoming sin so that His righteousness can be imputed to sinful man.
- Jesus' cry: tetelestai, paid in full. After He drank every last drop from the cup of God's wrath and turned it over.... so that we would not have to drink it ourselves.
- Romans 5:8: God demonstrated His love for us that while we were yet sinners, Jesus died for the ungodly.
- God's exchange with His creation: Jesus became sin and makes it possible for anyone to receive His imputed righteousness and justification **by faith alone** (Romans 3:21-26; Ephesians 2:8-10).
- Justified is a legal expression of being freed from guilt: Just if I'd hadn't sinned.
- Matthew 27:52: The 30-foot curtain separating us from the Holy of Holies ripped asunder indicating access to a Holy God, and the first fruit resurrections.
- Jesus is resurrected from the dead after 3 days (Luke 24). Shroud of Turin shows that it was a supernatural nuclear force that "colored it", one thousand times more powerful than the largest laser excimer that we have today.
- The resurrection was the Father's receipt of the tetelestai payment. There is now an effective method to reconcile our separation from God, to convert us from being slaves to sin to being righteous ambassadors to Jesus Christ.
- The resurrected Jesus Christ is seen by more than 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:6).
- Jesus ascends to Heaven (Acts 1:8) and the Old Testament promises in Joel, Jeremiah and Ezekiel (indwelt Holy Spirit) comes down to inhabit justified people (Acts 2:2).
- How does this apply to me, you ask? You must believe all that God has revealed in His inerrant Word (1 Timothy 3:16) by faith alone (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-10) (sole fide) to receive the reconciliation Jesus bought for you with His Blood. To move from eternal damnation that you were born into, to eternal life.
- Invitation: Do you trust Jesus with your eternity? Can you really trust anybody or anything else? Have you accepted His free love gift (Romans 10:9-13)? If you have been holding back, surrender and totally yield yourself to the Good Shepherd now.
- Closing Prayer.

Note on Shroud of Turin: Likely evidence of the resurrection event has been estimated from recent December 2011 analysis of fabric of the Shroud of Turin. The scientists used extremely brief pulses of ultraviolet light to replicate the kind of marks found on the burial cloth. Not only did not anyone *even know* about "ultraviolet light" until the 19th century, the actual total power of Vacuum Ultraviolet (VUV) radiations required to instantly color the surface of linen of the Shroud is about 34 trillion watts.

"It should be noted that the total power of VUV radiations required to instantly color the surface of linen that corresponds to a human of average height, body surface area equal to = $2000 \text{ MW/cm}^2 \cdot 17000 \text{ cm}^2 = 34 \text{ trillion watts}$, makes it impractical today to reproduce the entire Shroud image using a single laser excimer, since this power cannot be produced **by** any VUV light source built to date (the most powerful available on the market comes to several billion watts)" (Tosatti, *The Vatican Insider*, 12/12/2011).