

ทำไมต้องเป็น พระเยซูคริสต์ เพียงผู้เดียว?

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ไม่จำหน่าย



Why Must It Be Jesus Christ Alone?

The Truth about Merit, Sin, Justice, and Grace

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”
John 14:6

A Small Book for Conversations about Faith

This English text is a close, literal translation prepared to help English-speaking missionaries understand the meaning and structure of the original Thai text. It is intended as a reference translation rather than an independently adapted English edition.

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An Honest Question Deserves an Honest Answer

When Christians say, “Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation,” many people may feel uncomfortable. This statement may sound as though Christians are rejecting other religions or think that they are better than other people.

In Thai society, people are familiar with the ideas of merit, sin, karma, and the saying, “The person who does it is the person who receives the result.” Therefore, when Christians teach that Jesus received punishment in the place of sinners, many people feel that this is difficult to understand.

Questions then arise. Is it really true that people who do good but do not believe in Jesus will not receive salvation? Why does God not accept every religion if everyone is trying to do good? And is it narrow-minded to say that there is only one way of salvation?

This book does not invite us to look down on anyone’s religion or culture. Rather, it invites us to consider deeper questions honestly. What is the true problem of humanity? And who can truly save human beings from that problem?

1. Respecting Differences Does Not Mean That Every Belief Is True at the Same Time

Thai people often say, “Every religion teaches people to be good.” This statement reflects good intentions, and different religions also contain moral teachings that are worth listening to.

However, religion does not answer only the question of how we should do good. It also tries to answer more important questions. For example: Does God truly exist? Does the human problem come from karma, ignorance, or sin? And do human beings receive salvation through their own effort or through the grace of God?

The answers given by different religions are not the same, and sometimes they contradict one another. If God truly exists, then the statement that God does not exist cannot also be true at the same time. If Jesus truly is the Son of God, then He cannot be merely one moral teacher.

We can love, honor, and live together with people whose beliefs are different from ours without having to say that every belief is equally correct. Disagreeing with someone’s ideas does not mean that we are lowering that person’s value as a human being.

Therefore, the important question is not merely, “Does this make me feel comfortable?” but, “Is this true?”

2. Can Merit Remove Guilt?

Giving donations, helping poor people, caring for parents, and doing things that benefit society are all good. Christianity does not deny the value of doing good. On the contrary, believers are called to love their neighbors and help those who are in difficulty.

But can doing good today make yesterday's wrongdoing become something that never happened?

Imagine an accused person saying before a court, "Even though I cheated people out of money, I have donated a large amount of money. My wrongdoing should therefore be erased." A just judge would not consider one good deed able to cancel another wrongdoing.

Goodness is something we ought to practice already, but goodness cannot compensate for wrongdoing until the wrongdoing disappears. If human beings are guilty before the holy God, we need more than an increase in our score of good deeds. We need forgiveness that does not destroy justice.

Doing good has value, but it cannot turn back time and remove wrongdoing that has already taken place.

3. The Human Problem Goes Deeper Than Outward Behavior

The Bible calls the basic human problem “sin.” Sin is not merely breaking a rule from time to time. It is the condition in which human beings turn away from the Creator and raise themselves up as the center of life.

We want the good things God gives, such as life, health, love, and happiness, but we do not want Him to rule our lives. Even the good things we do may be mixed with the desire to receive praise, fear of bad consequences, or the hope of receiving something in return.

Therefore, the Bible does not merely say that human beings are not yet good enough. It says that we are spiritually “dead” because of sin. A dead person cannot make himself alive again.

Human beings therefore do not merely need better advice or more opportunities to make merit. We need forgiveness, righteousness, and new life from God.

“There is no one righteous, not even one.”

Romans 3:10

4. If God Loves, Why Must He Judge?

Many people think that if God truly loves, He should forgive everyone without punishing anyone. But consider a judge who releases a murderer or a corrupt person and says, “I am merciful, so I will punish no one.”

We would not call that judge loving. We would call him unjust. The person who was harmed would have to ask, “Then do the suffering and evil that occurred mean nothing at all?”

God loves, but He is also holy. He is merciful, but He does not call evil good. If He does not judge sin, He is not a just God.

An important question therefore arises: How can God forgive sinners while still remaining just? The Christian answer is not that God lowers His justice. The answer is the cross of Jesus Christ.

5. At the Cross, Love and Justice Meet

At the cross, God did not act as though sin were unimportant, and He did not lower the standard of His holiness.

The Son of God came as a human being and received the judgment that sinners deserved. Jesus died in the place of sinners, bore their sins, and fully paid the debt of sin.

Therefore, God forgives sinners without abandoning justice, because Christ fully received the punishment required by justice.

The cross shows two truths at the same time. God is so holy that sin must be judged, and He loves sinners so much that the Son willingly received that judgment in their place.

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.”

1 Peter 2:24

6. If “The Person Who Does It Must Receive the Result,” How Can Jesus Receive Punishment in Someone Else’s Place?

The saying, “The person who does it is the person who receives the result,” contains something true. Each person must be responsible for his own actions. Christianity does not teach that God forced an innocent and unrelated person to receive punishment in the place of evil people.

Jesus was not an ordinary human being who was seized and punished against His will. He is the Son of God, who willingly came as a human being. He said that no one took His life from Him, but that He laid it down by Himself (John 10:18).

He stood in the place of sinners, took responsibility for them, and received the punishment they deserved. We may compare Him to a representative or a guarantor, whose actions affect those whom he represents. Even so, these examples cannot explain the full meaning of the cross.

At the cross, God did not throw suffering upon an unrelated third party. The Son of God took on human nature and willingly received punishment in the place of sinners.

Sin was not ignored, and the debt did not disappear without someone paying it. Christ truly paid that price.

7 Why Is Jesus the Perfect Representative?

The one who saves human beings must be able to stand in the place of human beings and must be able to receive judgment in the place of sinners completely. Jesus is both truly God and truly human.

As a human being, He took on flesh and blood and faced hunger, weariness, suffering, and temptation. Therefore, He can truly stand in the place of human beings.

As God, He has unlimited worth and power. Therefore, the offering of Himself is sufficient to save sinners.

Jesus is not merely a teacher who points out the way. He is the Savior who came down to those who cannot go up to God by their own strength.

The gospel is not the story of human beings trying to climb up to God. It is the story of God coming down to save human beings.

8. Why Must It Be Jesus Alone?

Jesus is the only way, not because Christians want to exclude other people, but because no one else has completed what is necessary for salvation as He has.

He lived righteously and obeyed God perfectly. He died in the place of sinners and rose again in order to triumph over sin and death.

Those who believe in Him do not receive only forgiveness of sins. They also receive the righteousness of Christ. The guilt of sinners is counted as His, and His righteousness is counted as belonging to sinners who believe.

No prophet, saint, or religious leader is both God and human. No one else is without sin, receives punishment in the place of sinners, and rises again to give eternal life.

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:6

9. What about Good People Who Do Not Believe in Jesus?

When we compare one human being with another, we can admit that some people are more honest, kind, and self-sacrificing than others. These virtues have value and deserve praise.

But when we stand before the holy God, the question is not merely whether we are better people than our neighbors. The question is whether we have perfectly loved, obeyed, and glorified the Creator.

No one has loved God with all his heart throughout his entire life. No one has perfectly loved his neighbor as himself. And no one has perfectly pure thoughts, words, and motives.

The problem, therefore, is not that God rejects innocent people who do good. The problem is that no human being is holy enough to stand before Him by means of his own goodness.

Before God, the main issue is not who is better or worse than someone else, because all of us are sinners who need a Savior.

10. Is It Just for an Evil Person Who Repents at the Last Moment to Receive Salvation?

This question often comes from the idea that salvation is a wage God must pay to those who have accumulated more good deeds. But the Bible teaches that salvation is not a wage. Salvation is grace.

A person who repents at the last moment does not receive salvation because God ignores his wrongdoing. That wrongdoing was judged at the cross, and Christ received punishment in his place.

True repentance is not merely saying a few words to escape the result of wrongdoing. It means admitting one's guilt, ceasing to trust in oneself, and entrusting oneself to Christ.

No one is so good that he does not need grace, and no one is so evil that the grace of Christ cannot save him.

Grace does not say that sin is a small matter. It says that Christ is greater than all the guilt of those who come to Him.

11. Grace Is Not Merely Giving Human Beings an Opportunity to Save Themselves

Sometimes salvation is compared to a drowning person who must reach out and take hold of a life ring. This picture shows part of human responsibility, but it does not fully explain how serious sin is.

The Bible says that human beings are spiritually dead. We do not merely lack strength. By nature, we also do not want to come to God according to His way.

Grace, therefore, is not merely opening a way and then leaving human beings to save themselves. God makes dead people alive, opens the eyes of the blind, changes hard hearts, and gives repentance and faith.

Even faith is not merit that human beings bring to exchange for salvation. Faith is like an empty hand receiving a gift from God.

“You have been saved by grace through faith... not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 2:8–9

12. If Salvation Is Grace, Why Does God Not Save Everyone in the Same Way?

Justice means receiving what one deserves. Mercy means not receiving the punishment one deserves. Grace means receiving something good that we have no right to demand.

No human being has the right to demand salvation from God. If God judges sinners, He is still just, because He is not wrongly punishing innocent people.

When God saves sinners, He is not paying a debt He owes to human beings. He is showing mercy that human beings have no right to demand. If grace were something we could demand as a right, it would no longer be grace.

At the same time, God sincerely calls all people to repent and believe. Whoever comes to Christ will not be driven away by Him.

Therefore, the question we should ask may not merely be, “Why does God not save every sinner?” but, “Why is He willing to save even one sinner?”

13. Salvation by Grace Destroys Pride

If salvation came from our wisdom, goodness, or superior decision, Christians would have a reason to boast. But if salvation is the work of God, human beings have nothing to boast about.

A true Christian cannot say, “I was saved because I am better or wiser than other people.” He can only admit, “If God had not shown mercy to me, I would still be in darkness just like them.”

Therefore, the teaching that Jesus is the only way does not give Christians the right to look down on anyone. On the contrary, this truth should make them humble, patient, and compassionate toward those who still have questions.

A person who truly understands the cross will not stand above others. He will stand beside them as a sinner who has received grace.

The gospel does not say, “We are better than you.” It says, “All of us need the same Savior.”

14. Love Does Not Force, but It Does Not Hide the Truth

Christians must not look down on the cultures of others, laugh at questions, threaten people, or use the gospel as words of judgment or cursing against others.

But love does not mean that we must say every path leads to the same result. A doctor who discovers that a patient has a serious illness does not love the patient by saying, “Every treatment is equally good. Choose whichever one makes you feel comfortable.”

A good doctor must speak the truth politely because the patient’s life has value. In the same way, Christians are called to speak the truth about sin, judgment, and the Savior with love.

Truth without love may become harshness. But love without truth may also become deception.

Therefore, the proper proclamation of the gospel must preserve truth, humility, and love together.

15. Do Not Ask Only, “Are Christians Narrow-Minded?”

The most important question is not whether the words of Christians sound comfortable. The most important question is who Jesus truly is.

If He is not the Son of God, did not bear the sins of human beings, and did not rise again, then the claim that He is the only way has no foundation.

But if He is who He said He is, and if He truly died in the place of sinners and rose again, then He is not merely a religious teacher whom we may choose either to listen to or not to listen to.

He is the Lord and the Savior. Therefore, we should consider His words seriously. We should not reject them merely because they do not agree with ideas to which we are accustomed.

Before you judge the words of Jesus, consider Jesus Himself.

16. The Invitation of Jesus

Jesus does not call people who think they are good enough to come and receive a reward. He calls people who admit that they are sinful, weary, and unable to save themselves.

He did not say, “Accumulate enough goodness, and then come to me.” Instead, He said:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28

Do not trust that religion, sincerity, merit-making, or your own goodness can save you. These things cannot remove guilt and cannot make a spiritually dead heart alive again.

Look to Jesus Christ, who lived righteously, received judgment in the place of sinners, and rose again to give new life.

Admit your guilt, stop trusting in yourself, repent, and trust in Christ alone.

17. Believing Is Not Merely Changing the Name of One's Religion

Coming to believe in Jesus does not mean merely adding a new ritual to one's life or changing the name of one's religion in official documents.

Faith means acknowledging that Jesus is Lord, receiving forgiveness, being reconciled to God, and beginning a new life under the rule of Christ.

Grace does not open the way for believers to continue living in sin. The grace that forgives is the same grace that changes the heart and leads believers to love God and their fellow human beings.

True faith does not mean that a Christian will never make another mistake. It means that he is no longer the owner of his own life. He begins to learn to follow Christ together with the church community.

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”

2 Corinthians 5:17

18. Begin Considering Jesus Today

Do not judge Jesus only by the imperfect behavior of some Christians, and do not merely believe the opinions of other people about Him.

Read one of the Gospels, such as John or Mark, and honestly consider His words, His life, the cross, and His resurrection.

You may pray honestly, “God, if You truly exist, and if the message about Jesus is true, please open my eyes and my heart so that I may know You.”

Prayer is not a magical formula, and words themselves cannot save us. Christ is the One who saves. Come to Him sincerely, confess your sins, and trust in the work that He has already completed.

Jesus promised:

“Whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”

John 6:37

19. Questions for Personal Consideration

When you look back over your life, can you be confident that your good deeds can remove all the wrongs you have ever committed?

If God is truly holy and just, what should He do about the evil that has taken place in the world and the guilt hidden within our hearts?

If Jesus truly is the Son of God, died in the place of sinners, and rose again, how should this truth change your attitude toward Him?

What are you trusting in most: your goodness, religion, sincerity, your own effort, or the work that Christ has already completed?

Do not answer quickly merely to avoid these questions. Take time to consider them honestly before the truth and before your own heart.

20. A Prayer for a Person Who Is Seeking

Prayer is not a spell or a formula that saves, and repeating words without faith cannot change a life. Jesus Christ is the One who saves.

But if you are seeking the truth, you can speak honestly to God:

“God, I admit that I am a sinner and cannot save myself. Please open my eyes to see the truth about Jesus. Please give me repentance and faith. Help me trust in Christ, who died and rose again, and please lead me to truly know and follow Him. Amen.”

21. The Next Step after Reading This Book

Begin reading the Gospel of Mark or John, one chapter each day. Write down three questions: Who is Jesus? What did He do? And how does He call me to respond?

Speak with a Christian or pastor who holds the Bible as the primary standard, and do not be afraid to ask difficult questions. True faith is not afraid of honest questions or examination.

Try visiting a local church that proclaims Christ as the center, teaches the Bible faithfully, and does not use fear, personal benefit, or the power of leaders to control people.

May God lead you not merely to know information about Jesus, but to know Him as Lord and Savior.

“Seek, and you will find.”

Matthew 7:7

Jesus Christ Is Not Merely One Way among Many Ways

He is the only Savior, and His grace is sufficient for every sinner who comes to Him in faith.

“There is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12

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