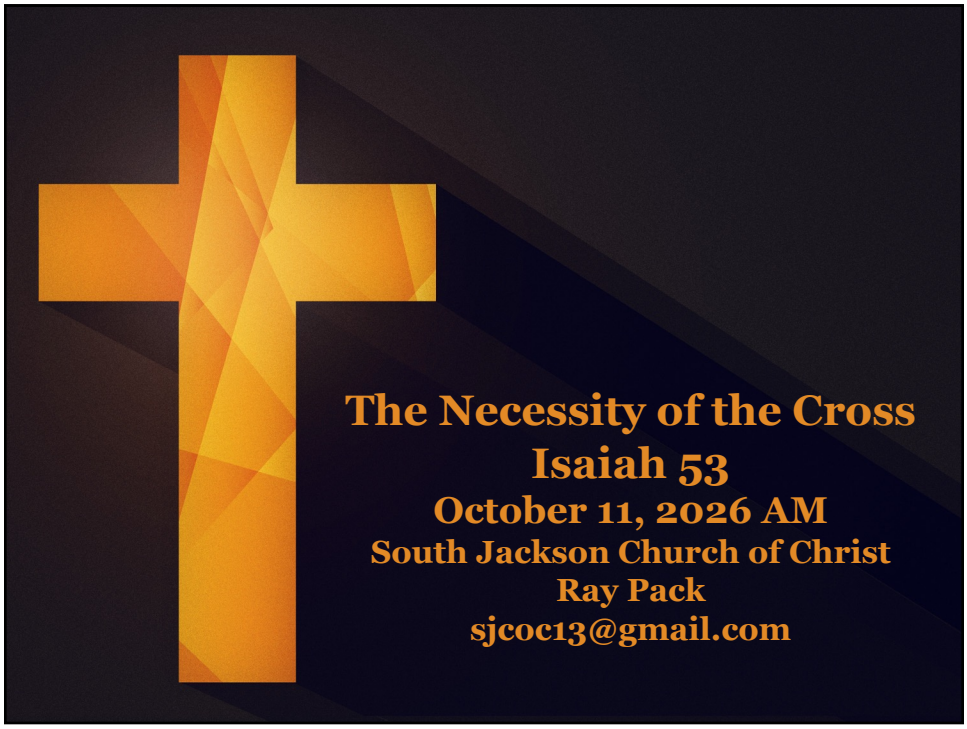


1

The cross is the central event of Christianity.

The question is not simply, "Did Jesus die?"

The greater question is, "Why did Jesus have to die?"

Jesus was not a victim of circumstances; His death was part of God's eternal plan to deal with the problem of sin and make salvation possible.

Introductory Thoughts

2

Sin is universal - Romans 3:23.

Sin brings spiritual death - Romans 6:23.

Sin creates separation from God - Isaiah 59:2.

Sin Separated Man from God



3

Human goodness cannot remove sin – Titus 3:5.

The blood of animals was insufficient – Hebrews 10:4.

A perfect sacrifice was required – 1 Peter 1:18–19 – John 1:29.

Man Could Not Save Himself



4

God is righteous and just – Deuteronomy 32:4.

Sin demanded a payment – Romans 6:23.

Christ became the propitiation for our sins – Romans 3:25–26.

The cross demonstrates God's righteousness – Romans 3:26.

Satisfy God's Justice



5

Jesus was sinless – 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Jesus willingly gave Himself – John 10:17–18 – Acts 2:23.

Isaiah prophesied His sacrifice – Isaiah 53:4–5.

He bore our sins – Isaiah 53:6.

Jesus Was the Perfect Sacrifice



6

Christ made peace between God and man – Colossians 1:20.

We can be reconciled to God – 2 Corinthians 5:18–19.

The blood brings redemption – Ephesians 1:7.

The cross gives us access to God – Ephesians 2:13.

Make Reconciliation Possible



7

Why did Christ have to die?

The cross was necessary for our salvation.

Isaiah looked forward - Paul looked back - Jesus Himself looked toward the cross

The cross was necessary because our sin was greater than anything we could fix—but God's love was greater than our sin.

The cross was not God's defeat. It was God's victory.

Closing Remarks

8