

Why did the cross have to happen?

Why did the cross have to happen?

Alexamenos worships his God (show pictures).

1 Cor 1:23, "Christ crucified was foolishness to the gentiles".

What is Christianity all about?

1) We stumble.

...Mark 9:42-50 Jesus says some really extreme things.

... heaven is for those who do not stumble (or sin)

... hell is for those who do stumble (or sin).

Romans 3, "there no one who is righteous not even one. There is no one who seeks God, no one who understands, all have turned away."

2) Empty solutions and false hopes

... if we are 'nice enough' and 'do enough good things for others'

... if I keep the 10 commandments

... if we go to church or complete enough church ceremonies

... if we redefine what sin is.

3) Why the cross had to happen!

Our problem of sin, which separates us from God is repaired by what Jesus does on the cross.

Romans 3:22, we can be right with God through faith in Jesus.

verse 23, "all sinned and fallen short of God's glory"

Verse 24, "justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came through Christ Jesus".

Verse 25, " a sacrifice of atonement".

So what is it that drove God to act in this way?

Romans 5:8, "God demonstrates his love for us in this, whilst we were still sinner Christ died for us."

Romans 3:26 ... so that he could be both the one who justifies and the one who is just.

Why did the cross have to happen?

For us today

“What is your response to the justice and mercy of God?”

“What are you doing with the justification he offers?”

... ask questions

... follow him and trust him, changed by him