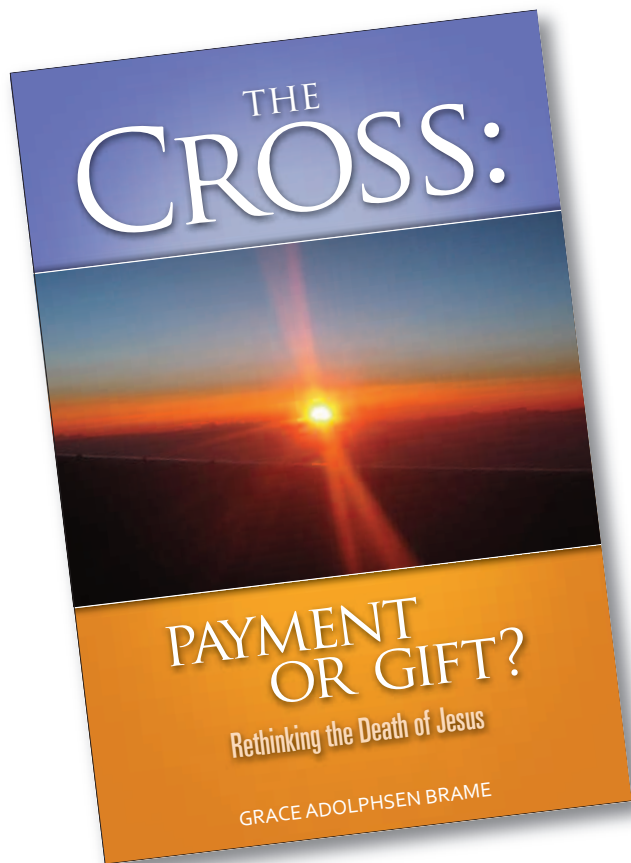


The Cross: Payment or Gift?

Rethinking the Death of Jesus

by Grace Adolphsen Brame



“In *The Cross, Payment or Gift?*, Professor Grace Brame – theologian, pastor, international speaker, singer, and retreat leader – brings her years of study and experience to bear on what is perhaps the central Christian question: Why did Jesus die? Her answer will have nothing to do with traditional explanations of “appeasement” or “satisfaction” or “payment” or “ransom.” Rather she explores the revelatory and redemptive actions of Divine love and invites the receptivity of the reader.

Written for lay men and women, this book will be of interest to pastors and scholars as well, to anyone with the *faith* and *courage* to rethink the death of Jesus.”

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A Summary of *The Cross: Payment or Gift?*

Christian theology has been backwards for 900 years.
It is true that Jesus died for us, as Christians have always claimed. But his reason was *not* to pay God for human sin or to remove eternal punishment. There is no way to pay for sin, and neither God nor heaven can be bought. Jesus' death was not "honor killing" for God's sake since no one else's death can repair the honor of another. Nor was it a substitute for our sacrifice to God. It was pure grace: God's sacrifice for us through Jesus. Both his life and death were to make God's love visible and real in a human and unforgettable way.

God was present through Jesus, even in the depths of human pain and death. God went as far as possible through Jesus on the Cross, offering us deep and eternal healing, for that is what the word *salvation* means. We are offered healing in soul, mind, and body. We are loved, forgiven, and freed. We are claimed, included, and reconciled. Thus we experience *atonement*, which is to be at *one* with God, with each other, and within ourselves, simply by opening our hearts to receive God's fully offered Gift, then, as Jesus did, giving it away.

– Grace Adolphsen Brame

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