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### New Testament

The death of Jesus has great religious and theological significance with consequences for the whole of creation. It revolves around the doctrine of atonement. According to the Bible, all humanity is sinful and has failed to live up to the standards laid down by God. Moreover, sin prevents humanity from receiving God's blessing. Atonement is concerned with God's love, justice and mercy. Humanity cannot be freed from sin without divine help. God sent Christ to die as a sacrifice and a ransom to pay the price for sin so that humanity could be forgiven. Christ died in the place of sinners, he is 'at one' with them – that is atonement...

According to the New Testament, Jesus' death defeated the power of evil and sin forever. God's love, which the Bible calls grace, takes the initiative and he reaches out to humanity with the chance of salvation through the death of Jesus... This is sometimes called justification by faith – all who have faith and accept Jesus will be forgiven their sins.

Jesus' love for others culminates in the giving of his own life to save people from the power of evil. His life is an example to believers, to encourage them to lead lives of humility and self-sacrifice.

From Why did Jesus have to die? an article in *Religious Studies Review* Vol. 1. No.2  
(Philip Allan Updates January 2005)

1. (a) Clarify the argument and/or interpretation in the passage. **(24)**
  
- (b) Do you agree with the idea(s) expressed? Justify your point of view and discuss its implications for understanding religion and human experience. **(16)**

**(Total 40 marks)**

**TOTAL FOR PAPER 1J: 40 MARKS**

**Start your answer on page 3.**





















