

Theology II: Work of Christ (Part 1)

Session 4 - Dr. Jeremy Kimble

KEY QUESTIONS

- What are the 3 offices of Christ?
- Why did the Son of God become man?
- Was it necessary for Christ to die?
- What really happened in the atonement?
- What are the various theories of the atonement?

TALKING POINT

- Get in groups of 3-4. Discuss and explain in as much detail as you can what Christ accomplished in his death. Write it down in a full paragraph and choose a spokesperson.

What was accomplished?

Sacrificial lamb

Culmination, fulfillment

At/one/ment for sins (Payment for a debt that is due)

Proved deity, humanity

Reconciled relationship (torn veil)

Access to the Father

Satisfied God's wrath (Rom 3)

Spirit

New Heart

Freed us from slavery/power to sin & death

CEDARVILLE DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as the representative and substitutionary sacrifice and rose again for our justification. Only those who repent and believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood and are saved by grace through faith wholly apart from human merit and works. Genuine believers, the elect, are the adopted children of God and are eternally secure through the work of God. (Scriptures page 5-6)

INTRODUCTION

- Since the time of Calvin, it has been common to speak of Christ's work in terms of his triple office: **prophet, priest, and king**.
 - As prophet: He is the one who alone has the words of life (Deut 18:15-18, Acts 3:22-24); He is the one who teaches with a singular, divine authority (Matt 7:28-29, Heb 1:1-2). His prophetic ministry is continued by the Holy Spirit (John 14:16, 18), and, in a lower capacity, the apostles (Matt 10:1-15; cf. the book of Acts).
 - As king: We speak of Jesus' true nature and power, veiled for most of his earthly life (John 18:33-38 - crown, purple robe, this is "the" King). Yet the center of his proclamation was the Kingdom of God, for in Him the kingdom had drawn near. His miracles showed His kingly authority over sickness, nature (wind and waves be still), demons, and even death (Matt 4:17; 12:28). But the fullness of the kingdom awaits His second advent, which we will examine later (Ps 2; 45:6-7; 110:1; Heb 1; Rev 19:16).
 - As priest: Our focal point in the study of Christ's work will be His priestly work of **atonement**, in which He is both **priest** and **sacrifice** (Heb 7:1-8:13). He represents God before humanity, revealing both the depth of the divine **love** and the blazing **holiness** of God. He also represents humanity before God, bearing our sins into God's presence and receiving the judgment of God upon them in his own body on the cross.

God is a God of holy love, and in the cross we see Gods' love and holiness displayed because there is wrath toward sin and there is love to save a people.

- Our familiarity with the cross dulls us to its shocking and strange nature. What other religion celebrates and studies in detail the death of its founder? The explanation is that this **death** is like no other death in **history**. In Christ, the eternal immortal God, the source of all life, tasted death. And if that is so, then it is not surprising that His death carries enormous, eternal consequences. As such, we take time now to study the atonement: the reconciliation of God and humankind through Jesus Christ.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS

Genesis 3:21	Luke 2:25-34
Genesis 22:1-19	Matt 20:28; Mark 10:45; John 1:29
Exodus 12:1-51	Luke 22:14-20
Exodus 29:1-21; Lev 1-5	Rom 3:21-26; Gal 3:10-14
Lev 16:1-34	Hebrews 7-10 (Leviticus with New Covenant eyes)
Psalms 22	1 Peter 2:22-25
Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Rev 5:6-12; 13:8

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. Gen 3:20-21

- Genesis 3:21 - this is the first hint of **substitutionary atonement** in Scripture.

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, our only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the palace of which God had told him. Gen 22:1-3

- Genesis 22:1-19 - while this whole account can point to Christ's **sacrifice**, we also again see the idea of **substitution** (cf John 8:56)

Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." John 8:56

- Exodus 12:1-51 - Passover pictures a lamb being sacrificed on **behalf** of the people - 10th plague is coming/death of the first born son/sacrifice lamb.

*Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. **For Christ, our Passover lamb**, has been sacrificed. 1 Cor 5:7*

- Exodus 29:1-21; Lev 1-5 - within the sacrificial system of Israel one can see **atonement** (because God's **holy**) needs to be made for sin through a substitutionary **sacrifice** in order to pay for the penalty of sin. (Burn offering, sin/guilt offering, grain, drink offering)
- Lev 16:1-34 - this holy day (Yom Kippur/ Day of Atonement- fasting required) is intended to make atonement for the nation of Israel: one goat gives up its **life** as a sin **offering**, the 2nd goat is led out into the wilderness to die to remove Israel's sin and purity so they can be in the presence of God (cf Lev 17:11).

*So **Jesus also suffered outside the gate** in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. Heb 13:12-13*

- Psalm 22 - prophecies of one who will come to **suffer** and **die** on our behalf.

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?...
they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.
... it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; they shall come
and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it. Ps 22:1,18, 29-31*

- Isa 52:13-53:12 - death of the Servant is in **place** of others (substitute) and he is **crushed** on their behalf for the sins of the people (guilt offering; 53:10). The Servant takes the place of humanity, becoming wounded and crushed and so suffering the fate that they deserved because of their **rebellion** against God.

As many were astonished at you - his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind - so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, at that which they have not heard they understand. Isaiah 52:14-15

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Isaiah 53:1-3

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him as the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned - every one - to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Isaiah 53:4-7

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 1 Cor 5:21

For my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2:30-31 (Jews and Gentiles)

"Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." Luke 2:34-35

- Luke 2:25-34- this is more subtle, but a definite allusion to the atoning death of Christ; to some he will be a stone of **stumbling**, to others he will be their **salvation**.
- Matt 20:28; Mark 10:45; John 1:29 - Jesus' mission is stated in these texts, namely, he is the **lamb of God** who came to give his life as a **ransom** for many.

CEDARVILLE DOCTRINAL STATEMENT SCRIPTURES.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You^{u[e]} must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

*Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you^{u[e]} do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.** John 3:3-16*

"Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. John 5:24

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. John 10:28-29

and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. Acts 13:9

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." Acts 16:31

The Righteousness of God Through Faith

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Romans 3:21-28

Spiritual Blessings in Christ

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. Eph 1:3-14

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Eph 2:8-10

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Phil 1:6

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. Titus 3:3-8

since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 1 Pet 1:23

by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:4-11