

Providence Presbyterian Church  
Adult Sunday School  
November 23, 2008

***Foundations of the Faith: Knowing for Living***  
***The Person and Work of Christ (2)***

*I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work you gave me to do. – John 17:4*

*When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. – John 19:30*

*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. – 1 Corinthians 1:18*

*In Paul’s many assertions about the Atonement I trace a certain conceptual hierarchy. Paul says, as we saw, “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Gal. 6:14). We might ask Paul, “Why do you thus glory and rejoice in Jesus’ shameful execution?” Paul would reply, “Because the cross was a sacrifice, putting away sin, and that sacrifice brought redemption, that is, purchase and deliverance out of ill-desert and bondage, because it achieved reconciliation, the restoring of relations of peace with God; and it achieved reconciliation because it made propitiation (by his death Christ has quenched God’s wrath, so making peace); and it was a work of propitiation because it was a work of substitution under judgment. Only so could it cover sin, quench wrath, make peace, and set us free from the penal bondage and eternal jeopardy that faced us otherwise.” – J. I. Packer in *Knowing Christianity**

**Introduction and Review**

- This present lesson flows from the lesson concerning the person of Christ; that He is truly and fully both God and man in one person and that this was and is necessary for the eternal salvation of His people.
- We can/may also see how our understanding of and belief in the work of Christ should affect every aspect of our worship and lives, both corporate and private.

**The work of Christ in his life of perfect obedience and righteousness**

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. – Galatians 4:4*

*For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. – Hebrews 7:26-27*

*Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. – Romans 5:18-19 (also 1Co.15:21-22)*

*Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.” –Jn.4:34*

## **The work of Christ in his suffering, death, and resurrection**

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” ... – Galatians 3:13*

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. – 2 Corinthians 5:21*

*All the prophets foresaw in spirit that Christ should become the greatest transgressor, murderer, adulterer, thief, rebel, blasphemer, etc., that ever was or could be in all the world. For he, being made a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, is not now an innocent person and without sins...but a sinner. Our most merciful Father...sent his only Son into the world and laid upon him... the sins of all men, saying: You be Peter that denier; Paul that persecutor, blasphemer, and cruel oppressor; David that adulterer; that sinner who ate the apple in Paradise; that thief who hung on the cross; in short, you be the person who has committed all the sins of everyone; see therefore that you pay and satisfy for them. Here now comes the law (God, in his character as assessor and judge) and says: I find him a sinner...therefore let him die upon the cross. And so it sets upon him and kills him. By this means the whole world is purged and cleansed from all sins...” – Martin Luther, Commentary on Galatians*

*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...It was to show that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus Christ. – Romans 3:21-24, 26*

Propitiation – a wrath-bearing, pacifying, appeasing sacrifice. See also I John 2:2

Satisfaction – a restoring of God’s violated honor – Anselm’s *Cur Deus Homo*. Col. 2:14-15

Substitution (penal) – See also Isaiah 53:3-11 and Leviticus 16 concerning the sacrifices on the Day of Atonement.

*This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake; which that He might discharge, He was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfill it; endured most grievous torments immediately in His soul, and most painful sufferings in His body; was crucified, and died, was buried, and remained under the power of death, yet saw no corruption. On the third day He arose from the dead, with the same body in which He suffered, with which also He ascended into heaven, and there sits at the right hand of His Father, making intercession, and shall return, to judge men and angels, at the end of the world.*

*The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience and sacrifice of Himself, which He through the eternal Spirit, once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of His Father; and purchased, not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto Him.*

*To all those for whom Christ hath purchased redemption, he does certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same; making intercession for them, and revealing unto them, in and by the word, the mysteries of salvation; effectively persuading them by his Spirit to believe and obey, and governing their hearts by his word and Spirit; overcoming all their enemies by his almighty power and wisdom, in such manner, and ways, as are most consonant to his wonderful and unsearchable dispensation.*

- *The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 8, Sections 4,5, and 8*

*From whence this fear and unbelief?  
Has not the Father put to grief  
His spotless Son for me?  
And will the righteous Judge of men  
Condemn me for that load of sin  
Which, Lord, was charged on thee?*

*Complete atonement thou hast made  
And to the utmost farthing paid  
What'er thy people owed.  
Nor can God's wrath on me take place  
When sheltered 'neath thy righteousness  
And covered by thy blood.*

*If thou my pardon hast secured  
And freely in my room endured  
The whole of wrath divine,  
Payment God cannot twice demand,  
First from my bleeding surety's hand  
And then again from mine.*

- Augustus M. Toplady, *Faith Reviving*

For further reading:

*Knowing God*, J.I. Packer-Chapter 18: *The Heart of the Gospel*

*The Work of Christ*, Robert Letham

*Knowing Christianity*, J.I. Packer – Chapter 5: *Why the Cross?*

*The Westminster Confession of Faith Study Book*, Joseph A. Pipa – Lesson 10: *The Atonement*