

Providence Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School
November 30, 2008

Foundations of the Faith: Knowing for Living
The Person and Work of Christ (3)

*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.
Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes 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.
By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people? – Isaiah 53:3-8*

*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. – Ephesians 1:7-10*

*For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we
are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. – Romans 5:10*

Introduction and Review

This lesson follows the teaching concerning the person of Christ; that He is truly and fully both God and man in one person forever, and that this was and is most necessary for the eternal salvation of his people. This lesson also follows closely the last lesson concerning the work of Christ, both concerning his life of perfect obedience and righteousness and concerning the work that he did in his suffering, death and resurrection.

We may/should continue to be impressed by how the teaching concerning the amazing work of Christ on our behalf should affect every aspect of our life in the Church.

In the last lesson we considered how Christ's suffering and death was a work of satisfaction, substitution, and propitiation. In this lesson we will consider further what his substitutionary atonement accomplished on behalf of his people.

Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection bring about reconciliation.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. – Romans 5:6-11

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 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 5:17-21

*The reconciliation of which the Scripture speaks, as accomplished by the death of Christ, contemplates, therefore, the relation of God to us. It presupposes a relation of alienation and it effects a relation of favor and peace. This new relation is constituted by the removal of the ground for the alienation. The ground is sin and guilt. The removal is wrought in the vicarious work of Christ, when he was made sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in him. Christ took upon himself the sin and guilt, the condemnation and the curse of those on whose behalf he died. This is the epitome of divine grace and love. It is God's own provision and it is his accomplishment. – John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied**

Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection accomplished and secured redemption.

*...even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
- Matthew 20:28*

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. – Acts 20:28

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. – Colossians 1:13-14 (see Eph. 1.7-10 above)

...he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. – Hebrews 9:12

...waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. – Titus 2:13-14

*Ransom presupposes some kind of bondage or captivity, and redemption, therefore, implies that from which the ransom secures us. Just as sacrifice is directed to the need created by our guilt, propitiation to the need that arises from the wrath of God, and reconciliation to the need arising from our alienation from God, so redemption is directed to the bondage to which our sin has consigned us. – John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied**