

Section: Doctrine of Christ (Christology)

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

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**TEACHING NOTES <> Lesson 60**

**Q62. What did Christ accomplish by dying on the cross?**

Substitutionary Atonement.

On the cross, Christ fully satisfied God’s divine wrath as the perfect substitute in place of His elect.

**Q69. How was Jesus our sacrifice?**

Jesus is the spotless Lamb who took away our guilt from sin by having taken our place under the wrath of God.

What a joy it is to get to teach God’s word tonight. I have been so very thankful for the work my brothers have been doing in the previous months. Especially, Matt’s 10 lesson effort to lead us through the Covenants of God. Steve’s work over this last few weeks to introduce us to the Doctrine of Christ and the Hypostatic Union was so rich and good as well.

We have two questions to teach on and discuss tonight: question 62 and question 69.

I will use the answer to Q62 as our framework and when it fits, we will stop and bring clarity on Q 69 in the middle of it.

**Q62. What did Christ accomplish by dying on the cross?**

**Substitutionary Atonement. On the cross, Christ fully satisfied God’s divine wrath as the perfect substitute in place of His elect.**

**1. The Cross**

The Bible teaches us that the pinnacle of the worship and exaltation the redeemed will sing about for eternity centers around the excruciating grace God displayed through the crucifixion of His only Son (Jesus Christ) on the Cross of Calvary!

**The Cross is the most widely known and popular symbol in the history of the world.**

**When we see the cross, we are reminded of Jesus; not just of His life but of His death-- His death by crucifixion!**

Death by crucifixion being the most horrendous, despicable, painful, agonizing form of death.

In speaking of crucifixion, it was Cicero who declared that Roman citizens should not think of the cross, should not speak of the cross because it was too altogether horrifying for decent Roman citizens to even contemplate or utter.

Crucifixion is so horrendous that we had to create a word to explain it; that word is **excruciating**.

Today you and I use the word, excruciating, in an effort to describe the most painful, awful, and undesirable of circumstances. 🡪Understand tonight, the word, excruciating, literally means “from the cross.”

Perhaps most peculiar about the crucifixion and the Cross and the death of Jesus is this simple fact: Christians, including myself, declare this event to be **good news**, the best news we have ever heard.

And the question remains to be answered, “**How could this be good news?”**

The word that the Bible uses for good news is **gospel**. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is our gospel. **Our Good News!** We believe it is the greatest news you can or will ever receive.

To understand why it is good news, we must move from the historical facts to the theological understanding and interpretation of those facts. 🡪Christ **Jesus died. Why is that good news?**

The real issue is not simply the historical fact that He died or even how He died **but for what and for whom did He die?**

**2. Christ fully satisfied God’s divine wrath as the perfect substitute**

Let’s understand and interpret those facts. 🡪**Christ died. Why is that good news?**

The Apostle Paul declares in his New Testament letter to the Corinthians (**1 Corinthians 15:3**):

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

“What I received I pass onto you of first importance…” The most important fact in all of human history.

The first aspect of that fact is this: He declares, “Christ died.”

All by itself, that is not good news. Christ died.

But then Paul gives us the theological understanding of that event. He uses an important word **“for”** …**for what?** “Christ died **for our sins.”**

That’s why it’s good news, the best news we’ve ever heard, the only hope we’ve ever had.

**Christ died.** **Why?** For our sins. As Colossians 2:13-14 explains in more detail, God has “forgiven us all our trespasses [that is: all our *sin*], by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

**What is sin?** Sin is disobeying God; sin is any disobedience in heart or deed to God’s perfect law and commands. -Q33 WotC

Who has sinned against God? “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” -**Romans 3:23**

**Our sin is utter offense against God and His honor. It is not to render God the honor due Him. To understand the weight and offense of the Cross, we must understand the weight and offense of our sin against God.**

**Our answer of the catechism question speaks to “**God’s divine wrath.**” God’s righteous penalty due sin is his divine wrath.**

We must have a full and right understanding and sobering appreciation for God’s perfect and eternal wrath do all who remain in sin. For those who remain in their sin and reject Jesus as Lord, their destiny is God’s wrath and it is the most horrible reality one could ever know. The 1689 Confession of Faith says, “the wicked, who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ, will be thrown into everlasting torments and punished with everlasting destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power.”

**Romans 2:5** But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Scripture speaks clearly of the degree of the demise of those who will experience God’s eternal wrath.

**2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**  in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.”

**Please understand with me that, Hell is a just and right sentence of condemnation of fallen man who is totally depraved and guilty apart from the saving grace of God.**

Jesus himself was very clear in His own teaching as He describes the judgment to come in Matthew 25 through three parables he shares:

-In the first story the bridegroom returns suddenly, and the women who are not ready for his coming are excluded from the marriage feast (Matt. 25:10).

-In the story of the servants, the master returns to settle his accounts, and the evil, lazy servant is condemned: “Throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (v. 30).

-In the final story the king separates the sheep from the goats, sending the wicked “to eternal punishment” and the righteous “to eternal life” (v. 46).

According to Jesus himself, ***There absolutely will be a future day of reckoning and judgment and many will be rightly condemned to hell as the wrath of God will be poured out on them in hell.***

Maybe the worst description of hell is found in… **Revelation 14:11** And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night,…

But many people love to argue, **“*God is so good, He could never send anyone to hell*.”**

It is BECAUSE of God’s goodness that He MUST rightly judge and condemn guilty people to hell.

His perfect justice means he must declare the guilty, guilty! And the sentence is death, eternal death.

The presupposition that “God is good” is correct, but the conclusion that therefore, because He is good, means He won’t or can’t punish anyone is completely wrong and dangerous.

The Bible proclaims *the righteous sentence for sinners* in **Romans 6:23,** “For the wages of sin is death…”

**Hebrews 10:26-27**, “says…if we keep on sinning there is only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.”

**Modern man despises and in many ways rejects acknowledging the idea of God’s wrath.**

But understand with me that this is yet another reality of fallen man’s lostness in sin.

When enslaved to sin mankind does not have a right fear and or respect for the reality of God’s wrath but instead a blind indulgence in sin that only earns of more of it.

Understand with me that, What many call freedoms to do what their flesh desires is really a layer of bondage in sin that they simply cannot see, all they do is the wickedness their flesh craves. It’s all they know how to do and they love it.

Church: I pray that we take most seriously the reality of God’s wrath.

That we therefore take so seriously our daily opportunity to witness to those who are in their sin and apart from Christ.

Now with a better clarity of God’s divine wrath we are able to have a better appreciation for Jesus did for the elect on the cross in our place.

**Martin Luther wrote,** “Since all of us, born in sin and God’s enemies, have earned nothing but eternal wrath and hell so that everything we are and can do is damned, and there is no help or way of getting out of this predicament…therefore another man had to step into our place, namely Jesus Christ, God and man, and had to render satisfaction and make payment for sin through his suffering and death.”

The 1689 Confession of Faith says that Christ Jesus “experienced the punishment that we deserved and that we should have endured and suffered. He was made sin and a curse for us. He endured extremely heavy sorrows in his soul and extremely painful sufferings in his body. He was crucified…”

**Christ died for our SINS!** Theologically, the Bible calls this **atonement.**

Atonement is what was made for us at the Cross of Jesus.

Mankind’s problem is because of our sin; God’s wrath is the righteous penalty for sinful people. The Bible mentions wrath from God more than 600 times. And from the first book to the last page of the Bible, it is emphatically, consistently, repeatedly and clearly declared that we are **“all”** sinners, God’s perfect wrath is due sinners, and that in the Old Covenant, as a TYPE, the Day of Atonement was the means by which certain sin was to be dealt with. **And on that day, the High Priest representing all the covenant people would take two goats, and one goat would be slaughtered.**

🡺Blood would be shed. The animal would die. As Hebrews 9:22 says, “Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin.” The Bible says in Romans 6:23, “The wages for sin is death.”

<>When you sin, your judgment is death. When Adam’s sinned on our behalf, the judgment was death.

So, as a foreshadowing in the Old Covenant, the animal dies as a substitute in the place of certain sins committed by people at the hands of the High Priest.

In a recent Covenant Theology lesson, we heard Matt say this:

*“God gave [those in the Old Covenant] ways to temporarily atone for certain sins in the shedding of animal blood.”*

**🡺The second goat, called the “scapegoat,” was then sent out into the wilderness.**

Before being sent out into the wilderness, the High Priest would lay hands over that animal, would confess the sins of the people, and then the animal would run away, symbolizing the taking away of those sins!

Again, as we learned previously, about this…

*“We have shadows in Old Covenant, things that dimly show something, such as the blood atonement the Israelites could make. This was a temporary thing that foreshowed the better and effectual atonement that would come by the shedding of Christ’s blood.* ***Since tenure in the earthly Promised Land was what was in view in the Mosaic Law, offenses against the Old Covenant could be addressed within that covenant and sacrificial system.*** *But concerning true spiritual realities, concerning offenses committed against a Holy God, the sacrifices could do nothing but point ahead to that one true sacrifice: Jesus Christ.”*

The fact that Jesus died on the Cross for the sins of His people means He came to shed His blood for the remission of our sins, and He is our scapegoat and takes our sins – past, present and future – and causes the record of them—the guilt of them—to be taken from us so that God would remember them no more.

This TRUTH about Jesus is **Good News** to those of us who believe.

And this doctrine of the **atonement** is so important. Even the word itself is important.

Our sin has separated us from God, and atonement is the only means by which we can be at one with the Holy God, who is perfect and righteous, without compromising His holy perfection.

**Atonement** = At the Cross, God was reconciling His people from all tongues, tribes and nations to Himself in Christ, making us one with Him again.

**Romans 3:25:** God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood--to be received by faith.

**(NIV)**

**The more detailed theological phrase for this is “Penal Substitutionary Atonement.”**

I will get to the substitutionary part in a moment.

But first we must see that He paid the penalty we were due.

In doing this, He makes atonement. He restores what is broken or separate.

Wrapped up in the phrase “sacrifice of atonement” are two important words: expiation and propitiation.

Let me define these quickly, as they both are important words to know and understand as they relate to atonement.

Wrapped up in the Atonement of Jesus is two important words: **Propitiation & *Expiation*.**

***1. Propitiation*.** The prefix *pro* means “for,” so propitiation satisfies God’s wrath due to the ones Jesus died for because it was taken on by Jesus. Christ stood in our place and took the wrath we deserved. Upon conversion, this work of Christ is made effectual for us, moving us out from under the penalty due us, and into right standing with God.

**Propitiation-** Jesus satisfies God’s wrath due the elect based on His substitutionary atonement.

***2. Expiation*.** The prefix *ex* means “out of” or “from,” so *expiation* is the removing something or taking something away. In biblical terms, it has to do with taking away guilt through the payment of a penalty or the offering of an atonement.

**Expiation-** Jesus takes away the guilt of the elect based on His substitutionary atonement.

**Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

The wrath of God no longer sits on those who are in Christ.

In this the holiness of God was respected, His justice is satisfied and we are set free

**–This is why we SING and worship GOD!**

**CHRIST ALONE IS THE MEANS TO OUR SALVATION!** To fully understand why, look at:

**2 Cor 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (NASB)

“**God made Him** (Christ) **who had no sin** (first requirement) **to be sin on our behalf** (die for us: second requirement), (why?) **so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him** (Christ).”

God made Christ who was sinless, to take on our sin our punishment and die for us, in order to credit us His righteousness.

***This is Solus Christus*!** It’s not because of our righteous acts, our good deeds, anything we’ve ever done or could do. The 1689 Confession of Faith agrees: “We cannot, even by our best works, merit pardon of sin or eternal life from God’s hand, due to the huge disproportion between our works and the glory to come, and the infinite distance between us and God.”

In light of that, it is by and because of the perfect righteousness of Christ that we are not only saved from the wrath of God but also declared perfect in righteousness in the eyes of God.

**This is a good time to bring in the next question in tonight’s lecture.**

**Q69. How is Jesus our sacrifice?**

**Jesus is the spotless Lamb who took away our guilt from sin by having taken our place under the wrath of God.**

**First let’s consider the imagery of the lamb and then let’s see why it was essential that He was spotless.**

**The Lamb:**

To understand God’s symbol of the needed lamb we have to look back to the beginning.

God in his providence uses a lamb all throughout history to make it clear that a sinful people are desperate for ***the sacrificial Lamb***.. **The Lamb of God**.

1. In Genesis 4, we have the Lamb typified as Abel sacrifices a lamb unto the Lord.

2. We have the Lamb prophesied in Genesis 22:8 where Abraham said to Isaac, "God will provide himself a lamb."

3. In Exodus 12, we have the Lamb slain on behalf of the people and its blood applied. ( the Passover)

4. in Isaiah 53:7, here for the first time we learn that the promised Lamb of God would be a Man.

5. And as we read today in John 1:29, we have the Lamb identified as Jesus.

All of this points to one lamb, the lamb of God. All of this is showing us that our sin needs to be dealt with if we will have eternal life with God.

in the Old Testament, God’s law demanded that Lambs were offered in sacrifice provided a scapegoat and atonement for the people’s sin.

**Leviticus 4:32–35** If he brings a lamb as his offering for a sin offering, he shall bring a female without blemish and lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and kill it for a sin offering in the place where they kill the burnt offering. Then the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar. . . . And the priest shall make atonement for him for the sin, which he has committed, and he shall be forgiven.

**the Bible is also clear that ….**

*“it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins”* ***Hebrews 10:4***

So what is going on in all of the OT sacrifice and the spilling of the blood of Spotless lambs and goats and animals. What is going on is a foreshadow of the ultimate grace of God.

**Why should God even give these instructions for animal sacrifice in a sinful peoples place?**

**WHY not just bring his righteous, just judgment on sin?**

What is going on is God is pointing to the ultimate Sacrifice. The one true Sacrifice.

The perfect and satisfactory blood **of the Lamb of God** who would take away the sin of the world.

All throughout the OT, God is making a way for Jesus. The one who would bring grace upon grace.

🡪 **An Animal would not do**. **No animal can fully and rightly pay for the sin of sinful man.**

**No sinner can fully and rightly pay for the sin of sinful man.**

Remember the doctrine we learned in recent lessons!

**Jesus had to be God and man** for the atonement to be successful and count for us.

Only the God Man, only the “the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us” **John 1:14**

Only the God Man, only the one “who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin “**Hebrews 4:15**

Only the Lamb of God

When Peter, another eyewitness of Jesus, described how the lamb of God would take away our sin by using this language He said, “you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, **like that of a lamb without blemish or spot”** **1 Peter 1:18-19**

Jesus is the Spotless Lamb. This is what is required.

**WE NEED A SPOTLESS LAMB.. therefore one of us CANNOT BE THE LAMB!**

**Only one could do this…**

**The Spotless Lamb:**

**1 Peter 2:22-25** He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**What is amazing about this passage is the spotless Shepherd came to save His straying sheep.**

**How did He do this? By becoming a sheep and by willingly being slaughtered in our place!**

**Let that sink in for a moment.**

**First, do you see the innocence, the purity, the perfection, the righteousness of Jesus Christ?** (vs 22-23)

Now not only did Jesus avoid bad things. Jesus not only committed no sin, deceived nobody, reviled nobody. The things that Jesus did, He did unto the glory of the Father. “He entrusted his life to God.”

This is important because doing the right things for the wrong reasons is also sin.

**This is huge.** Because many people think that they don’t need Jesus because they are generally good people.

Even many Christians think they are doing fine in life and faith when they simply avoid bad movies, don’t cuss or chew, or run around with girls who do. But sin is more than avoiding bad things.

**Remember:** Sin is a matter of our actions and of the heart.

1. Sin is doing the wrong thing (commission) or not doing what you should do (commission). (disobedience of God’s perfect law).

2. Even deeper, Sin is also doing the right thing for the wrong reasons (self-salvation or self-exultation).

Jesus never sinned! He was PERFECT!

**Not only did He never** commit sin.

He did all that he did “entrusting himself to him who judges justly.” All that Jesus did was from the right heart—**He did it all for the glory of God!**

**Jesus was sinless!**

Again, **1 Peter 1:19** describes Jesus as “like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”

No imperfections. Jesus is the spotless Lamb. See the spotless Lamb!

See the fact that He is worthy of total pardon from any chastisement because of HIS PERFECTION!

Nobody thinks He deserves any punishment.

He is clearly without blemish, without guilt, without law breaking.

**\*I remember when I got my first ticket.**

In Driver’s class, we had a guy who got busted driving 120 miles an hour going to Vegas.

And a bunch of other traffic offenders. But when it got to me and I told them I got my ticket for going 72 in a 70 zone, everyone in the class had sympathy for me.

The teacher said, “That guy deserves to be here and you don’t.”

But here is the thing. I also broke the law. I was still speeding. I wasn’t doing 120.

But I was still guilty; therefore, my punishment was just.

**Jesus is the only one who was sinless. Jesus was worthy of praise and exultation.**

**Yet He came near. He took on flesh so that He could be our representative.**

**And even though He was tempted in every way as we are, He did not sin!**

**Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, **yet without sin.**

**He came so He could take our place. All of His people who had gone astray.**

**Isaiah 53:6**

All we like sheep have gone astray;

we have turned—every one—to his own way;

but the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah says Jesus was “like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent…” (Isaiah 53:7b)

**The spotless Lamb took on the sin of the sheep that had gone astray.**

**We were the ones that went astray.**

WE should be slaughtered. WE should be bled out.

But He showed us His amazing grace. Jesus took our penalty. He substituted Himself in our place!

He made atonement for us so we could be reconciled to God.

Today, if you are here and you see you are guilty before a holy God, and you see the beauty of the substitutionary atonement of Jesus, then repent and believe. Trust your life to Christ and be forever changed. Praise God for new life in Christ.

For the rest of us who are already saved: May we always **see** and **savor** and **share** the fullness of the freedom that the substitutionary atonement of Jesus gives us.

**Now our answer says that He was the “perfect” substitute.**

The way I said it earlier is that He satisfied God’s wrath.

The other way to say this is that Jesus perfectly accomplished His mission to atone for the sins of His people.

Listen to this great quote from the 1689 Confession, “The Lord Jesus has fully satisfied the justice of God, obtained reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those given to him by the Father. He has accomplished these things by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he once for all offered up to God through the eternal Spirit.”

He didn’t try, He didn’t hope, He didn’t wish; He accomplished His mission.

It accomplished what must be done. To give you further taste for why this is good news, I want to play a short video of a section of a sermon Elder DJ Ward gave in 1989. Listen:

**VIDEO -**<https://vimeo.com/163252033>

**3. in place of His elect**

As much as I want to expand on this point, I don’t want to take away from the uber important lecture Steve will give us next week on this very topic of what is called: **Particular Atonement or Limited Atonement.**

In it you will see that our answer tells us WHO Christ died for, but because this truth has been so convoluted or in some cases even denied, I’m very excited for you to see what Scripture has to say to this next week. Don’t miss it!