Section: Doctrine of Christ (Christology)

Lesson 64: Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Q71. How is Jesus our reconciliation? By satisfying God’s wrath due our sin, He restores our relationship with God.

Q72. How is Jesus our victory? He has defeated Satan, sin, and death for us; therefore, we are no longer enslaved to these.

Teacher: Justin Ader

**TEACHING NOTES**

**Greeting:**

Well good evening! My name is Justin Ader and I have the privilege of serving here amongst this church body as one of the deacons, the youth director, and a member of the teaching team. If we have not met personally, it would be my joy to meet you, so please feel free to come up after the lesson and introduce yourself. Tonight, I get the privilege of teaching us God’s good truth. I am thankful to be here with all of you as we study our next two questions and answers in the Word of Truth Catechism. Last midweek season I ended the year with a double header, and this year I get to start with a double header. A double header means that the lesson will be a little longer than normal, but we will make it through on time. I pray that these two questions and answers will be a blessing to us all.

**Introduction:**

This evening we continue in Part 7 of the Word of Truth Catechism: Doctrine of Christ (aka Christology). We started working our way through this doctrine last midweek season in the spring of 2024, and Pastor Rob picked us back up where we left off a couple weeks ago as he taught on what the gospel is. Back in April, Sam taught us Q69 on how Jesus was our sacrifice. I bring that up because you may be wondering why Pastor Rob taught on Q68 and then Sam taught on Q70 last week, appearing to have skipped Q69. Let me take a moment to summarize Q69 from this past April on Q69 with Christ being our sacrifice. We learned that Jesus was our sacrifice by being the spotless Lamb who took away our guilt from sin by having taken our place under the wrath of God. We learned that Jesus satisfied God’s wrath due the elect based on His substitutionary atonement, and that He took away the guilt of the elect. Last week Sam blessed us with teaching us how Jesus is our righteousness. We learned that Jesus is our righteousness by His perfect life of obedience being credited to us, and God sees Christ’s righteousness when He looks on those who are saved. We also learned that the sin of the elect was imputed to Jesus at the cross, and Jesus’ perfect righteousness is imputed to the elect at conversion. Lastly, we learned that God declares a believer not guilty based on the believer being credited Jesus Christ’s perfect righteousness. In our lesson tonight we continue to peel back the layers of the onion so to speak as we focus on Jesus being our reconciliation and our victory. So let’s pray and ask God to illuminate His truths to us as we seek to understand and know Him, and then we will dive into our first question and answer.

Pray with me.

**Q71. How is Jesus our reconciliation?**

By satisfying God’s wrath due our sin, He restores our relationship with God.

As with a lot of my lessons, I find it very helpful to define terms for us and ask deeper questions for better understanding. For example, some of us may be wondering what the word reconciliation means. Or we may be wondering what God’s wrath is. Or why does God’s wrath need to be satisfied? Or why does our relationship with God need to be restored? Or maybe some other questions arise when reading these catechism questions and answers. My hope is that I would be able to help us all understand what is being taught, and that having a right understanding would in turn help draw us all closer to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Our catechism answer conveys to us that our relationship with God was once broken. Otherwise, why would we need a restored relationship with God, right? So let’s ask ourselves, why was our relationship with God broken? The answer to this is where we must start in order to see why we need reconciliation. The answer is sin. God’s word tells us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). What is sin? Sin is disobeying God; sin is any disobedience in heart or deed to God’s perfect law and commands.

Disobedience in Heart: Having the wrong state of mind, motivation, or desire behind what we do or feel. For example: Helping the old lady cross the street because you think she will give you a tip.

Disobedience in Deed: Doing or saying what God forbids, or not doing or saying what God commands. For example: Stealing.

Where did sin come from? Sin started with the first people to ever live, our first parents, Adam and Eve. It originated from their sin thousands of years ago in the garden of Eden.

Now, here is something important to remember: God created Adam and Eve good, blessed, and with no sin. Adam and Eve were created sinless. The Bible tells us this in Genesis 1:31. Now, Adam and Eve did not remain sinless. We see this in Genesis 3. Satan tempted and deceived Eve to disobey God by eating the forbidden fruit, then she gave it to Adam, and he also disobeyed God. Adam and Eve did not fully trust God’s word, so they were vulnerable to temptation. So let's see the command that was broken and the fall of mankind take place.

Genesis 2:16-17 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 3:1, 6, 13 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

So now that we have seen where sin came from, we must ask why it affects every person born of man and woman like you and me. This is why: God chose Adam to act as the representative of the entire human race. With the test God set before Adam, He was testing the whole of mankind. In this, Adam accurately represented us. We call this the Federal Headship of Adam. God chose Adam as the Federal Head (or representative) of all mankind. Because Adam failed to obey God’s commands perfectly, all those he represented receive the results of his disobedience. We will talk about the results of Adam’s disobedience in my next point and verse on the Romans Road. But, to think about this clearly, let me give you an example. Our president and government of the United States act as a representative for all of us Americans. Whatever laws or decisions they make, affect us all. In a similar way, Adam as our federal head is our representative and because he sinned, we all sinned. His nature became corrupted by sin, so everyone born from his seed inherited that same sinful nature.

So after the sin of Adam, all people are guilty: born sinful by nature, enslaved to sin, and practice sin willingly and continually; therefore, all are due the just penalty of God’s perfect wrath. Every person apart from Christ is spiritually dead in sin. Every person is desperate for God to save them through the work of His Son Jesus Christ. Without God’s saving work in their life, they will be sentenced to death.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. All people need Jesus, they are desperate for Him! They need the love of God to save them!

Romans 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Christ was our only sacrifice.

Romans 10:9-10 …If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. The new heart that God gives a person causes them to believe that Jesus is Lord, and because of this, they are justified. What is justification? Justification means that God declares a believer not guilty based on the believer being credited Jesus Christ’s perfect righteousness. Before being saved by Jesus, a person is guilty for their sin and sentenced to death. But because of Jesus’s work on the cross to save a guilty sinner, a believer is declared not guilty because Jesus paid for that sin in their place. Only after covering these things, can we now get to reconciliation.

The students learned this important doctrine, the doctrine of reconciliation, this year at summer camp as I brought them down the Romans Road when we stopped at our 3rd checkpoint. At this checkpoint we learned and memorized Romans 5:1.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This verse teaches us that we are justified by faith. We are justified by our faith in Jesus as Lord. We are not justified by anything else, like the apparent “good” deeds we do or just being a “good” person. No one can come before God and tell Him that they deserve eternal life because they were a good person. No one deserves eternal life. It is only through Jesus, who was our sacrifice and righteousness.

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.

Q70. How is Jesus our righteousness? His perfect life of obedience is credited to us. God sees Christ’s righteousness when He looks on those who are saved. [We bring nothing to the table].

Next in Romans 5:1, it says that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of Jesus dying on the cross in place of guilty sinners, and being given the free gift of saving faith, and by being justified by that faith, a believer has peace with God. This is called reconciliation. What is reconciliation? Reconciliation is the act of coming to an understanding and putting an end to hostility, as when former enemies agree to an amicable truce. The 1828 Websters Dictionary says: It is the act of reconciling parties at variance; renewal of friendship after disagreement or enmity. Here is an easier definition: To be reconciled means for two people to be brought back together after a disagreement or situation that caused the split. In order for reconciliation to happen, one party must initiate it. This is what God did through His Son, Jesus. With God being holy (meaning set apart), and us being guilty sinners, there was a big separation. As sinners, we were enemies of God and deserving of His wrath because of sin. But for believers, Jesus is our reconciliation.

Q71. How is Jesus our reconciliation? By satisfying God’s wrath due our sin, He restores our relationship with God.

Jesus satisfied God’s wrath by dying on the cross for our sins in our place. Because of this work that Jesus did for His people, they now have a relationship with God and are at peace with Him. No longer does God’s wrath remain on a believer because Jesus paid for it. This is amazing when you really think about it. God’s love, forgiveness, and redemption freely and effectively given in Jesus to His chosen people, who are undeserving of this.

Hebrews 12:28 28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.

Now that we have looked at our sin problem, its consequences, the free gift of eternal life that God gives through His Son, our justification by faith and the peace with God that we now have through our Lord Jesus Christ, as well as now knowing what the word reconciliation means, I want to break our catechism answer down for us by asking some further questions, such as:

1. What is God’s wrath?
2. Why does God’s wrath need to be satisfied?
3. How does Christ’s work reconcile us to God?
4. What does a reconciled relationship with God look like?
5. **What is God’s wrath?**

In order to fully understand our need for reconciliation with God, we must have a biblical understanding of God’s wrath. Simply stated, God’s wrath is a holy and righteous response to sin. The wrath of God is God’s righteous anger. The Word of Truth Catechism says: “The wrath of God is His eternal detestation of all unrighteousness. God has justice against all evil and decreed eternal punishment against unredeemed sinners.”

To see this, turn in your Bibles to:

Romans 1:18-32 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

God is perfectly holy and just. His wrath is a reflection of His holiness in response to sin, which is a violation of His perfect law and character. God’s wrath is seen as the necessary outworking of His justice. What this means is that because God is just, He cannot ignore sin or leave it unpunished. Just like how God demonstrates His love and grace for His people by sending Jesus to die for them, His wrath is a demonstration of His commitment to uphold justice. Now, God’s wrath does not contradict His love. Instead, His wrath is an expression of His love for His creation, as He opposes anything that corrupts or harms it. Sometimes we like to look at the common grace that God gives to all humanity. Like the rain that He gives which falls on the just and the unjust. The Bible speaks to this, but here is the flipside to common grace and why it is given:

Romans 2:1-5 1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. 2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. 3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? 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.

God’s wrath has eternal consequences that an unrepentant person will have to face when they physically die if they don’t repent and trust in Jesus. As they go through this life on earth, they are storing up wrath for themselves. Again, they are desperate for Jesus to save them and take that wrath from them. God’s wrath serves a purpose in bringing about His redemptive plan and in demonstrating His glory and righteousness. His wrath is not spiteful or arbitrary. God is not undone by our sin and uncontrollably furious. Instead, God’s wrath shows His holiness, His justice, and His love. It shows us our need for salvation through the work of Christ.

Now that we know what God’s wrath is, our answer tells us that God’s wrath needs to be satisfied.

1. **Why does God’s wrath need to be satisfied?**

Again, God is perfectly holy and just, meaning He cannot tolerate sin. We see this in:

Habakkuk 1:13 (NIV) Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.

Sinners cannot be in the presence of God. The Bible says, “For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.” Psalm 5:4

For God to be just, sin must be punished—it must be paid for. If God allowed sin to go unpunished it would compromise His holiness and justice. Think about that. Would it be just for a judge to allow a convicted murderer to go free without any form of punishment? Not at all. If a judge allowed a convicted murderer to go free, we’d protest and cry out that the judge was unjust and corrupt. If God, the righteous Judge, sees our sin and does nothing, He is not a perfectly just God. He is no different than you or me. In order for God to be our perfect standard and just judge, He must punish sin.

Herman Bavinck: “The satisfaction of God’s wrath is central to understanding the atonement; it is through Christ’s sacrifice that the righteous demands of God’s justice are fully met.”

1. **How does Christ’s work satisfy God's wrath and reconcile us to God?**

Jesus Christ’s sacrifice on the cross is the means by which God’s wrath is satisfied.

Jesus, in obedience to God the Father, took on human nature, came under the law, was tempted in this life, suffered the wrath of God by being cursed on the cross, and died a physical death. Jesus had to do this to fulfill the covenant of redemption made between the three Persons of the Godhead. The covenant of redemption is the plan and decree made before creation between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit to graciously redeem the chosen ones from sin and punishment based on the work required of Jesus. All of creation is set in the context of this divine plan. Jesus had work to do in order to reconcile a people back to God. In order to do that, He had to take on human nature to be like us, to be tempted in every way possible, yet without sin. He did this to bring about the New Covenant, sometimes called the Covenant of Grace, which is the covenant by which God saves the elect, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The New Covenant was planned before creation, promised in Genesis after the fall, and formally established by the blood of Christ when the work required of Him was complete. So what makes Christ’s life different from every other person? First off, He was conceived in His mother Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. This means that Joseph, His earthly dad, wasn’t His biological dad. None of us were conceived in this way. We all have a biological dad and a mom. Next, Jesus obeyed God’s law perfectly, He never sinned. All other human beings throughout the history of mankind have sinned. Jesus’s work was to suffer the wrath of God by being cursed on the cross, and die a physical death. He completed His work. We call this substitutionary atonement or penal substitutionary atonement. This means that Jesus took upon Himself the punishment due to sinners. By dying on the cross, Jesus fully satisfied God’s divine wrath as the perfect substitute in place of His people, those whom God has saved and will save. Now, a key importance is the fact that Jesus did not remain dead! No, he was buried and on the third day Christ rose physically from the grave. This is central to the Christian faith and so important because all authority for salvation is granted to Jesus in His resurrection. Without His resurrection, faith in Christ would be useless—no one would be redeemed from sin. The Bible teaches that the perfect obedience of Christ, the work He came to do on the cross, results in eternal life and restoration to God for all of God’s chosen people. Through His life, death and resurrection, Jesus bridges the gap, enabling a reconciled relationship with God for you and me. What a blessing this is church! So…

1. **What does a reconciled relationship with God look like?**

This is where we get into some life application and contemplation. This is where we really need to focus. A reconciled relationship with God includes faith, repentance, justification, sanctification, and community.

A reconciled relationship with God is nothing without faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. As believers, Jesus must be the Lord of our lives. In a Romans 10:9-10 devotional that we went through at camp this summer, we read that the Apostle Paul tells us that salvation comes through confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in His resurrection. This confession is not a mere verbal acknowledgment but a profound declaration that Jesus is sovereign over our lives. This emphasizes the lordship of Christ over every aspect of our existence. Belief in the heart signifies a deep-rooted faith, a trust in the completed work of Christ on the cross and His victory over sin and death. This belief is a gift of grace, as Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us, "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." Having faith in Jesus means knowing that God has us in His grip. He will not forsake us nor lose any whom He paid for on the cross. Look inward for a moment: Do you possess this type of faith?

A reconciled relationship with God is marked by repentance. Genuine repentance is a desire to turn away from sin by confessing it and taking up a new path that seeks to honor God. Repentance is a response by us to God’s amazing grace and mercy that He has shown us. A reconciled relationship with God includes obedience. Jesus said that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. When we don’t, we need to confess and repent.

A reconciled relationship to God is understood by us through the doctrine of justification. As believers, we need to know that we are declared righteous before God based on the finished work of Christ alone. Our sin was imputed to Jesus at the cross, and His righteousness is imputed to us. We cannot earn favor with God by anything we do. It is only through Christ, and this should cause us to well up in worship to Him with thankful hearts. Are we thankful?

A reconciled relationship to God is marked by sanctification. This is simply the process of becoming more and more like Christ. A reconciled relationship with God involves a continuous transformation and growth in holiness, empowered by the work of the Holy Spirit. Think about the fruit of the Spirit in your life for a moment. How has God matured you in Christ over the days, months and years?

A reconciled relationship with God involves being part of a local body of believers who gather regularly for corporate worship to partake of the sacraments (baptism and the Lord’s Supper), the preaching of the Word, and prayer. Being involved in the family of God includes practicing the “one anothers” found in Scripture and practicing accountability. We should ask ourselves, do these things describe us? Do we rejoice in having been reconciled to God? Consider:

Romans 5:11 …we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. It is God who has given us reconciliation, and in this we should rejoice greatly! He initiated it and we were reconciled through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:18 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

Let’s turn our attention now to our second question of the night.

**Q72. How is Jesus our victory?**

He has defeated Satan, sin, and death for us; therefore, we are no longer enslaved to these.

To dive deeper into the layers of this answer, let’s break it down by looking at Satan, sin, and death. We will also look at the freedom we have in Christ over these things.

1. **Jesus Defeated Satan for Us**

Jesus defeated Satan in many ways: In His incarnation by taking on a human nature. In His temptation in the wilderness when Jesus remained sinless by obeying God perfectly and demonstrating His authority over Satan. Jesus defeated Satan at the cross where He paid for sin, satisfying the justice of God and breaking the power of sin and death, which Satan had wielded over mankind. Jesus defeated Satan in His resurrection by rising from the dead and having victory over Satan, sin and death. When Jesus rose from the grave, He broke the power of sin and death and confirmed His authority over all things, including Satan. Jesus defeated Satan in His ascension when He ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father, signifying a position of honor, power and respect. This means that Jesus is King and He reigns and continues to subdue His enemies, including Satan. Jesus continually defeats Satan and will complete His victory at the second coming. Now, let’s go a little deeper.

First off, we have been talking about Satan. Who is Satan? Satan opposes God as the chief of all fallen angels by deceiving, tempting, and lying. Satan only has the access and ability that God permits him. If you want an in depth lesson on this question of who Satan is, ask your group leaders and they can help you get the audio. Let’s look to Scripture to see who Satan is.

Revelation 12:9a “And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world.”

In this passage, Satan is the “ancient serpent” that we first see in Genesis 3. From the very beginning of his entry into Scripture, Satan was consumed with damning sin.

John 8:44 says, “He was a murderer from the beginning.”

When Christ completed the work given to Him, He decisively defeated Satan. But he didn’t just defeat Satan, He also canceled our record of debt and its consequences.

Colossians 2:14-15 says, “by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

Basically, by Paul saying that Jesus disarmed the rulers and authorities he is speaking of the powers of Satan and Hell. They are without their armor and weapons. They have been and will be eternally doomed. Well, if Christ has defeated Satan, then does Satan have any power over Christians? The Apostle Paul tells us:

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:37-39

As we see in Romans, death, rulers, and powers are unable to separate us from God. Because Jesus canceled our legal debt and stands in our place, He effectively removes the weapon of division that Satan yields. Satan has no decisive power over us. We see this in:

James 4:7: “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” How do you keep an enemy away? By using weapons. So we use the weapons God has given us to fight the devil. Those weapons are His Word and prayer, along with the armor God gives us as seen in Ephesians 6.

1 Peter 5:8-9: “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

Again, while these passages ascribe a dangerous power to Satan (and therefore, his demons), we have the power, given by God, to resist him. If you belong to Jesus, you will fight off Satan, and you will be victorious. When Jesus becomes our victory, we as Christians triumph over Satan in victory!

Now, it is important to understand that Christ did not condemn Satan immediately to the lake of fire when Jesus rose from the grave. Satan still has some measure of power, but his power is drastically limited. He has blinding power over the reprobate which are those who do not belong to Jesus, but for the elect who are God’s chosen ones, he has no ability to steal us away from God. That is very clear in the gospel of John. Satan will, in the future, be thrown into the lake of fire with his demons and be eternally tormented with all who denied Jesus. So Satan is already defeated, and his defeat will be fully shown when Christ returns.

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Revelation 20:10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Next…

1. **Jesus Defeated Sin for Us**

We have already talked extensively about sin and its definition in this teaching, and we already looked at substitutionary atonement and imputed righteousness. So I don’t want to rehash those again, instead, we will briefly see how Jesus defeated sin for us and then look to our victory over sin because of Jesus.

Jesus lived in perfect obedience, never sinning. He took the sin of His chosen ones upon Himself and endured the wrath of God to pay for those sins on the cross. Jesus died, was buried, and then three days later rose victoriously from the grave defeating sin. The victory over sin was through the work of Jesus Christ. Jesus’s resurrection is seen as proof that His sacrifice was sufficient and that sin and death no longer have the final say over those who belong to Him by faith. Jesus’s work is applied to those of us who have been saved by grace through faith.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because Jesus is victorious over sin, we who belong to Him are no longer bound to sin. This is evident in Scripture.

Romans 6:17-18 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Now, if we have been set free from sin, then why do we still sin? If Christ is victorious over sin, and therefore we are victorious over sin, then why are we still fighting sin? Christians still sin because, although they are redeemed and set free from the bondage of sin, and are regenerated by the Holy Spirit, they continue to live in a fallen world and retain a sinful nature. Even after conversion, Christians retain a sinful nature. You might hear us refer to this as the “old self or old man.” Our human nature is still inclined to sin. The Apostle Paul discusses this struggle in Romans chapter 7 where he describes the tension between his desire to obey God, which only regenerated believers have, and the lingering “tug of war” with sin within him.

Romans 7:15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Anyone resonate with Paul here?

When a person is saved, they aren’t immediately freed from sin, meaning that they aren’t sinless. Rather, they are freed from the power to sin. They enter into a lifelong process known as sanctification. This big word simply means that a believer is gradually transformed into the likeness of Christ. Now, while justification (being declared righteous by God because of Christ) is an instantaneous act, sanctification is progressive. A friend of mine once said that when we are saved and grow in holiness, we don’t become sinless, rather, we sin less as we mature in our faith until we reach glorification. What this means is that though we strive towards holiness as believers, we will still struggle with sin. This is what we call the “already/not yet” tension that all believers face. We as Christians live in the “already” of salvation meaning that we have been justified and regenerated, but there is also the “not yet” reality of still awaiting final glorification when we are with Christ in glory—in heaven. The Christian life is a battle against sin. We see throughout Scripture that there is a conflict between the flesh and the Spirit. We as Christians have to actively fight against sin and pursue righteousness. I love this quote by John Owen:

“Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you.” This is so true. I see too many Christians sin and then fall into a state of despair as if all hope is lost. But our hope is in Christ! This leads us to our dependence on God and His grace. We need to rely on God’s grace, His forgiveness and the strength He gives us to resist sin. Believers have the gift of the Holy Spirit which empowers us to grow in holiness, but we must remind ourselves that this growth is gradual and often involves some times of giving in to sin, and giving in to its deception (i.e. David and Bathsheba). That is why we need to depend on God and each other. Our hope is not in being perfected here and now, our hope is in Christ and the promise of glorification that He will bring at His return. Another friend of mine would remind me of this by saying that we need to look onward and upward. When we physically die and are instantly in the presence of Christ, it is only then when we will be completely free from sin. At that point, we will be made perfect and sinless, fully conformed to the image of Christ, fully knowing Him. That is our hope! That is what we long for. Do you long for this?

Now, it may be helpful for us all to understand that sin has multiple layers. There is the act of committing sin and there is also the dominion of sin.

Romans 6:14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

We will commit acts of sin. But if we are truly saved, we cannot be under the dominion of sin. We are under God’s redeeming grace.

Romans 6:17-18 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Believers are slaves to righteousness. We may still sin, but sin and its condemnation no longer has any power over us. We are now truly free to practice righteousness. Having been set free from sin, believers have become slaves of righteousness and are no longer condemned.

Romans 6:6: “We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.”

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

1. **Jesus Defeats Death for Us**

1 Corinthians 15:54-55… “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

Paul is quoting an Old Testament passage in Hosea 13:14. In this passage, Paul takes a text about judgment against Israel and flips it into a text about salvation, which has been fulfilled through Christ. Jesus defeated death for us in His resurrection. Therefore, we are victorious over death as well. We, as Christians, don’t need to fear death.

John Calvin said, “Let us, therefore, bear in mind this consolation in afflictions—that we are already, in hope, conquerors of death and sin. The sting of death is sin. He shows that death has no power over us, except on the ground of sin. What, therefore, should we fear in death, since by Christ we are freed from sin?” John Calvin emphasized here the victory that believers have over death because Christ has defeated sin, which is the sting of death. Calvin said this to help reassure Christians of our ultimate triumph over death through the work of Christ on our behalf.

In Christ’s sacrifice, He was subjected to the penalty of physical death and suffering under the wrath of God. He was charged with our iniquities, took the wrath due us, and His body died. But we know He rose again to conquer the dominion of death for His people. Paul says in:

1 Corinthians 15:26, “The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”

**Summary:**

To summarize our question and answer, our brother Scott Waterman, who taught his own lesson on this question 4 years ago, listed some practical takeaways that I found to be very helpful. So I decided to include them in my own lesson with minor modifications. They are also listed in your handout notes for future reference. Let’s take a look together.

What does it mean for us practically that Christ is victorious over Satan?

1. Satan can no longer blind us from the truth, as he does with unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2. Satan can be resisted by Christians.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

3. Satan’s power is limited toward Christians.

1 John 4:3-4 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. 4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

4. Satan has been defeated and will be thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

What does it mean for us practically that Christ is victorious over sin?

1. Sin no longer has dominion over us.

Psalm 130:8 And he will redeem [spiritual] Israel from all his iniquities.

2. Sin will not condemn us; it has been paid for by Christ.

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

3. We can resist and endure sin.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

4. We can grow in holiness until final glorification.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

What does it mean for us practically that Christ is victorious over death?

1. We can look death in the eye and not be scared, for we will rise because Christ rose.

Romans 6:5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

2. We should not have a hopeless grief for Christians who have died.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

3. We will reign with God in Heaven forever.

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

4. Our death, as Christians, is never in vain.

Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

**Conclusion:**

Q71. How is Jesus our reconciliation? By satisfying God’s wrath due our sin, He restores our relationship with God.

Q72. How is Jesus our victory? He has defeated Satan, sin, and death for us; therefore, we are no longer enslaved to these.

Brothers and sisters, go forth today and beyond knowing that Jesus has reconciled us back to God the Father by His work alone which redeemed wretched sinners and transformed them into saints! Go forth knowing that Jesus is victorious over Satan, sin and death and that we who belong to Him are victorious as well because of Him who saved us! Praise God that we are no longer a slave to sin, but a slave to Christ!

Let’s Pray.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen. (2 Cor. 13:14). You are dismissed to groups.