

“The Essentials Of Our Faith”

Session XXII

March 13, 2011

“JUSTIFICATION”:

The Person And Work Of Jesus Christ!

Part Three: “What Is The Gospel?”

The Gospel is a message – the message of the “Good News” about the **Person** and **Work** of Jesus Christ, the Son of God – His full and free gift of salvation! The Gospel is the only adequate and effective remedy for the “Bad News” – the ugly truth about mankind’s personal sin and rebellion against God!

“Some of the confusion regarding the meaning of the ‘Gospel’ today may arise from failing to clarify the issue involved. The issue is, How can my sins be forgiven? What is it that bars me from heaven? What is it that prevents my having eternal life? The answer is sin. Therefore, I need a way to resolve that problem. And God declares that the death of His Son provides forgiveness of my sin. ‘Christ died for our sins’ – that’s as plain as it could possibly be. Sinners need a Savior. Christ is that Savior and the only valid one. Through faith I receive Him and His forgiveness. Then the sin problem is solved, and I can be fully assured of going the heaven.”

--Charles C. Ryrie

In our previous study, we looked at the “Biblical Doctrine of Sin”. This is one teaching of the Bible that we would like to reject or to deny! However, every human being has:

- 1) an inherited sin nature handed down generationally from Adam and Eve, Eph. 2:3;
- 2) the condemnation of Adam’s sin imputed directly to us as individuals, Rom. 5:12;
- 3) personal sinfulness --the choice of “sin” in thought, word, and action, Rom. 3:23!

*“In Romans 3:9-18 Paul demonstrates the condemnation of **all people** on the basis of their committing sins personally. The condemnation is universal and based on evil acts of both word and deed. People are corrupting, deceitful, uncharitable, blasphemous, murderous, oppressive, quarrelsome, and impious. Many passages name specific sins . . . ‘lying’ in I John 1:6, ‘partiality’ in James 2:4, ‘carnality’ in I Cor. 3:1-4, ‘sorcery’, ‘immorality’, ‘factions’, and ‘envy’ in Gal. 5:19-21.”*

--Charles C. Ryrie

The Gospel is the “Good News” that God has provided a REMEDY for mankind’s inherited, imputed, and personal sin! It is the Person and Work of Jesus Christ!

The “Gospel” Is God’s Remedy For Sin!

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because ALL SINNED . . . For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One, the many will be made righteous . . . but where sin increased, GRACE abounded all the more.” Romans 5:12,19,21

I. The “Person” of Jesus Christ. (“Who” is He?)

A. The “Son of God” → _____ God!

“In the beginning was the Word (logos), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

John 1:1-2

“He was the Son of God from all eternity. . . . In no sense is the Second Person inferior to the First Person. They are One with respect to eternal existence, and every attribute and capacity. . . . It is true that He, for the purpose of incarnation and redemption, assumed while here on earth a place of subjection to the First Person, and that He was pleased to work in the power of the Third Person, but this subordination enters in no way into the truth of His Sonship. The theological term ‘eternal generation’ implies that without beginning or ending, the Second Person is the manifestation of the Godhead.”

--Lewis Sperry Chafer

B. The “Son of Man” → _____ man!

“‘She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet. ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel,’ which translated means, ‘God with us.’”

Matthew 1:21-22

“And the Word (logos) became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. . . . No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained (‘exegeted’) Him.”

John 1:14,18

“The ‘Son of man’ title, used about 38 times in the New Testament, was Christ’s own designation of Himself, and its primary significance is of His humanity. . . . the redemption which Christ supplies is made possible through His humanity, and . . . there is no redemption apart from both His Deity and His humanity . . .”

--Lewis Sperry Chafer

C. The “Son of David” → Israel’s “_____”!

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

*“ . . . the term ‘**Messiah**’ . . . is wholly Jewish. As Christ is Lord and Head over the Church, so He is King and Messiah over Israel. Later, indeed, He will be King of kings, but that supreme authority will be exercised from the Davidic throne . . . ”*

--Lewis Sperry Chafer

D. The “Righteous Branch” of David → The “_____” One!

*“As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the **Righteous One**, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities. . . . He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet, He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.”*

Isaiah 53:11,12

*“ . . . we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, **Jesus** the Son of God . . . For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, **yet without sin.**”*

Hebrews 4:14-15

II. The “Work” of Jesus Christ. (“What” did He accomplish?)

A. “Atonement” → Christ provided a “_____” for sin! (Lev. 5:6,10)

*“He shall also bring his guilt offering to the LORD for his sin which he has committed, a female from the flock, a lamb or a goat as a sin offering. So the priest shall make **atonement** on his behalf for his sin.”*

Leviticus 5:6

*“Whether it be accurately or inaccurately employed . . . the term ‘**atonement**’ is the term . . . men have seized to express the entire work of Christ upon the Cross. . . . Objection to the use of the term . . . arises from the fact that the word is not a New Testament term, and when used in the Old Testament some 77 times . . . represents the meaning of kaphar . . . which word originally meant ‘to cover’. . . . etymologically the word **atonement** suggests ‘**at-one-ment**’ . . . it feebly relates to the New Testament truth which presents Christ as the Lamb of God ‘**taking away**’ the sin of the world.”*

--Lewis Sperry Chafer

B. “Substitution” → Christ died “_____ my _____”!

1. Isaiah 53:6

“All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.”

2. II Corinthians 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.”

3. I Peter 2:24

“And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the Cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.”

“The death of Christ was substitutionary – He died in the stead of sinners and in their place. This is also described as ‘vicarious’ . . . ‘one in place of another.’ The death of Christ is vicarious in the sense that Christ is the Substitute who bears the punishment rightly due sinners, their guilt being imputed to Him in such a way that he representatively bore their punishment.” --Paul Enns

--There are two Greek prepositions that emphasize the substitutionary nature of Jesus’ death. The preposition anti, translated ‘for’, means Christ died ‘instead of’ sinners (Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:45). The preposition huper, also translated ‘for’, means Christ died ‘in behalf of’ or ‘in place of’ sinners (Gal. 3:13; I Tim.2:6; II Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 3:18). Philemon 13 shows that huper must mean ‘in place of’. --Paul Enns

“Christ suffered and died that men might not be required to bear their burden of condemnation. To reject this truth is to reject the plainest doctrine of Scripture, to reject the Gospel, and the only righteous ground on which God may exercise grace toward the lost.” --Lewis Sperry Chafer

C. “Redemption” → Christ “_____” the sinner from _____!

1. “agorazo” = “to purchase in the marketplace”.

a. I Corinthians 6:20

“For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

b. I Corinthians 7:23

“You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.”

c. Revelation 5:9 (also Rev. 14:3,4)

“And they sang a new song, saying, Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”

“Frequently it (agorazo) had to do with the sale of slaves in the marketplace. The word is used to describe the Believer being purchased out of the slave-market of sin and set free from sin bondage. The purchase price . . . was the death of Jesus Christ.” --Paul Enns

2. “exagorazo” = “to remove completely from the slave market by purchase”.

a. Galatians 3:13

“Christ redeemed (exagorazo) us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.’”

b. Galatians 4:5

“So that He might redeem (exagorazo) those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

“Believers have been purchased in the slave market (-agorazo) and removed from (-ex) the slave market altogether! Christ set Believers free from bondage to the Law and from its condemnation.” --Paul Enns

“A curse rests on everyone who does not fulfill the Law; Christ died in such a way as to bear or be a curse; we who should have been accursed now go free . . . a legally based freedom.” --Leon Morris

3. “lutroo” = “to obtain release by the payment of a price”.

a. Luke 24:21

“But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem (lutroo) Israel.”

b. I Peter 1:18

“Knowing that you were not redeemed (lutroo) with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.”

c. Titus 2:14

“Who gave Himself for us to redeem (lutroo) us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”

“The idea of being set free by payment of a price is prevalent in this word. Believers have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ to be a special possession for God.”

--Note: Redemption is viewed manward; mankind was in bondage to sin and in need of release from bondage and slavery to sin.

D. “Reconciliation” → Christ has made “_____” with God!

1. Romans 5:10

“For if while we were enemies we were reconciled (katalasso) to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His death.”

2. II Corinthians 5:18

“Now all these things are from God, who reconciled (katalasso) us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

"The emphasis of reconciliation is that of making 'peace' with God. Man who was estranged from God is brought into communion with God. Sin had created a barrier between man and God and rendered man hostile toward God, Col. 1:21. Through Christ that enmity and the wrath of God was removed, Col. 1:22. . . . Reconciliation may be defined as 'God removing the barrier of sin, producing peace and enabling man to be saved.'" --Paul Enns

--Note: Reconciliation is manward: man was the one that had moved out of fellowship because of sin, and man needed to be reconciled to renew the fellowship.

E. "Propitiation" → Christ fully "_____ " all God's righteous demands!

1. Romans 3:23-25

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith."

2. I John 2:2

"And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world."

3. I John 4:10

"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

"Propitiation means that the death of Christ fully satisfied all the righteous demands of God toward the sinner. Because God is holy and righteous, He cannot overlook sin; through the work of Jesus Christ God is fully satisfied that His righteous standard has been met. Through union with Christ the Believer can now be accepted by God and be spared from the wrath of God." --P. Enns

--Note: Propitiation is Godward; God is propitiated—His holiness is vindicated and satisfied by the death of Christ.

F. "Justification" → Christ's work allows God to declare man "_____ "!

1. Romans 3:24

"Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus."

2. Roman 5:1

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

--"The term justification means to be 'declared righteous' . . . Justification is the divine acknowledgment and declaration that the one who is in Christ is righteous. That which God thus publishes He defends. Justification is immutable!" --Lewis Sperry Chafer