

Jesus Saves—But How?

Week 2: Defeat & Dominion

Review:

- Because multiple things went off track, God's victory through Jesus's life, death and resurrection has multiple elements ("How did the Chiefs win?")
- Key Point: No one single aspect of the atonement should be confused with the Gospel message.

Contrasting the themes of 'Sacrifice in our place' vs 'Victory over evil':

What went wrong in the Garden of Eden?

- *Substitution & Sacrifice*: humans sinned. We rebelled against God resulting in broken relationships between us, God and creation.
- *Defeat & Dominion*: the serpent tempted us, and we handed our God-given authority over to him.

What do we need deliverance from?

- *Substitution & Sacrifice*: God's people suffered (rightly) the consequences of breaking the covenant. They need forgiveness from their sins.
- *Defeat & Dominion*: God's people are suffering in slavery in Egypt. They need freedom from the rule of an evil tyrant.

1) The Battle against the Devil

- The expansion of God's kingdom signifies the reduction of the domain of the devil and the strength of evil.
- If Jesus's healings and exorcisms were skirmishes in this battle, the decisive victory happened at the cross and resurrection of Christ—when Jesus was enthroned as king and took back His rightful authority.

The Already/Not-Yet

- We live in between D-Day and VE-Day.
- Jesus has dealt the decisive blow to the powers of evil, but they will not be fully vanquished until His Second Coming.
- *Note*: This reality applies to all four of the aspects of Jesus's victory we will be discussing in this session (victory over Satan, ransom from the Devil, redemption from sin, and the disarming of the authorities)

2) The Ransom from the Devil

- Ransom: _____
- We sold ourselves to Satan with the original sin. Satan has control of us and the world.
- Jesus ransoms us from Satan. This has the connotation of paying to get us back.
- Satan did not know Jesus's full plan or he wouldn't have made the deal.

3) Redeemed from Sin

- Redemption: _____
- Sin is not just something we do, it is something that enslaves us.
- We are slaves to sin, and as such we make the wages afforded to slaves of sin.
- Jesus redeems us from sin and into His kingdom.

4) The Disarming of the Authorities

- The Devil does not only work directly through temptation, but also through rulers, systems and power structures.
- The greatest weapon that governing authorities wield is the threat of death.
- By remaining steadfast in face of this threat, and by rising victorious after being condemned, Jesus is the first of a new humanity who can live unafraid and undaunted by the fear of death.
- By wrongfully condemning the Son of God, the powers condemned themselves: publicly demonstrating their invalidity.

Put it all Together:

Take a minute to clarify your own understanding. If someone asked you, "Jesus saves—but how?!" and you were attempting to explain this aspect of the atonement, what would you want to say?

Key Texts

1 John 3:7-8

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

Luke 11:17-22

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder."

1 Corinthians 2:6-8

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Romans 6:19-23

I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 2:14-15

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Colossians 2:15

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Bible Study Practice Texts

1 Timothy 2:1-7

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

Acts 26:15-18

“Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ “ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’”

John 8:31-36; 42-45

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!

Romans 7:14-25

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.