

Jesus Saves—But How?

Week 4: Demonstration & Devotion

Contrasting the Themes:

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.
- *Reunion & Recapitulation*: We were barred from the garden, separated from God and lost access to the Tree of Life.
- *Demonstration & Devotion*: We did not believe (trust) the truth about God, instead believing the lie that God was trying to keep something good from us.

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.
- *Reunion & Recapitulation*: God's people have been exiled from their land. They need to return (to where God's presence is) and be reconciled to the Lord.
- *Demonstration & Devotion*: God's people are living in ignorance and foolishness. They need both correction (the Prophets) and wisdom to live rightly (wisdom).

How Jesus Saves Us:

- *Substitution & Sacrifice*: Death: Jesus saves us through His death.
- *Defeat & Dominion*: Resurrection: Jesus saves us through His resurrection and ascension.
- *Reunion & Recapitulation*: Incarnation: Jesus saves us by becoming one of us.
- *Demonstration & Devotion*: Life and Teaching: As God, Jesus reveals the truth about what God (and love) is really like. As man, Jesus embodies the right way to live.

Main Idea:

- If the problem is ignorance and foolishness, then the solution is acknowledgment of truth (as revealed in Jesus) and walking in wisdom (the example of His life).
- John 14:6-7 “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

Review:

Substitution & Sacrifice:

The Day of Atonement in the Old Testament included:

- *The Sin offering*: Jesus bore our sin in our place.
- *The scape goat*: Jesus removed our sinfulness from us.
- *The High Priest*: Jesus intercedes for us and gives us His righteousness.
- **One sentence summary**: Jesus died in our place as our substitute.

Defeat & Dominion:

- Jesus's ministry (exorcisms) and death was a face-off between Himself and the Devil.
- Through Jesus's death the ransom (freedom price) was paid to both the Devil and to the power of sin.
- Through Jesus's resurrection and ascension, the rulers and authorities were humiliated and their ultimate threat (death) was rendered useless.
- **One sentence summary**: Jesus rose victorious over sin, death and the devil.

Reunion & Recapitulation:

Jesus's Incarnation brings an end to exile and estrangement.

- *Union*: Because the Son united Himself with humanity (incarnation), we can be united to God. When this happens, what is true of Him becomes true of us.
- *Recapitulation*: Christ is the head of a new humanity.
- *Reunion*: Christ reconciles us both to God and to one another.
- **One sentence summary**: Jesus became human to reconcile estranged humans to God.

Demonstration & Devotion:

- *Jesus is the Truth*: Jesus reveals the truth about God's character and heart.
- *Jesus is the Way*: Jesus wins our allegiance and love.
- *Jesus is the Life*: Jesus offers a model for us to follow.
- **One sentence summary**: Jesus teaches us what God is really like, and demonstrates how we should live in response as citizens of His kingdom and members of His family.

Application: Sharing the Gospel:

- The Gospel is not any one of these "how's."
- The Gospel is the Good News that Jesus is the King and through bringing the kingdom of God He is working to make everything right.
- When you share the Gospel, don't focus on the *how*, focus first on the *who* (Jesus) and secondly on the *why* (because of God's love for us). The *how* is a distant third ("through His life, death and resurrection").

Jesus is the Truth:

- Through the example of His life, along with His explicit teaching, Jesus revealed the truth about God and His character (“If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father”)
- Note: This is not simple head knowledge about what God is like, but the kind of truth that is meant to capture our hearts as well.

Key Text: 2 Timothy 2:25-26 "Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will."

Jesus is the Way:

Is the Atonement Limited? Yes

- *Intent:* If the intent is limited it means that Jesus did not die for everyone.
- *Extent:* If the extent is limited it means that Christ’s death does not completely save us.
- *Application:* If the application is limited it means that the atonement is not applied to us until we express faith.

How is all of this applied?

- The word *pistis* means not only belief, but also that you place yourself under the authority of the person you have faith in.
- When you declare *pistis* (belief and allegiance to Christ), you are given citizenship in the Kingdom of God (the church community)

Key Text: Philippians 3:20-21 “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”

Jesus is the Life:

- When a child is adopted they do not have all the same ideas, mannerisms and lifestyle as the family, but they are still a part of the family
- Over time spent being in the family they become more like the family.
- The good works we do as members of this family do not save us, but by following Jesus’s example, God and each of us together work on sanctifying us.

Key text: James 2:18-19 “But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.”

Bible Study Practice Texts

2 Peter 3:1-4

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

1 Peter 2:21-25

“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

1 John 1:5-2:2

“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”