

Redemption in Romans Lesson 9 3Q 2010

Freedom in Christ

SABBATH

Read memory text – what does it mean to be “in” Christ?

Read second paragraph, “Paul was saying...” Thoughts?

No doubt Christ offers to free us from sin – question – when? When can we take Christ up on that offer? Have you heard Christ’s deliverance from sin broken up into portions?

- Delivers from the penalty of sin
- Delivers from the power of sin
- Delivers from the presence of sin

Can we be delivered from sin’s penalty without being delivered from sin’s power or presence? So how does Christ deliver us from sin’s penalty? Is it not by delivering us from sin?

Can we experience deliverance from sin now? How?

The **knowledge of God as revealed in Christ** is the knowledge that all who are saved must have. It is the knowledge that **works transformation of character**. This knowledge, received, **will re-create the soul in the image of God**. It will impart to the whole being a spiritual power that is divine. {MH 425.2}

This **is life eternal that they might know you the only true God** and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. John 17:3

Read next paragraph, “Paul continues...” thoughts?

Much to contemplate in this paragraph,

Isn't it true it cost God (all three) infinitely to save mankind? How can the reality that "it cost God infinitely to save us and eliminate sin from the universe," be misconstrued?

Isn't it similar to say "it cost God infinitely" and "God paid an infinite price" to save mankind? These are reasonably the same – are they the same as saying "God paid our legal penalty?" Does this language introduce another element?

He took our humanity, the only way He could relate to us, what does this mean?

What about Hebrews 2:17,18?

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Does this mean that because Jesus became human God now knows what we are going through and can sympathize with our needs? Did the humanity of Jesus educate God in some fashion so that Christ is now our sympathizing and faithful High Priest who informs the Father of our struggles and plight?

Christ was about to visit our world, and to become incarnate. He says, "A body hast Thou prepared Me." Had He appeared with the glory that was His with the Father before the world was, **we could not have endured the light of His presence. That we might behold it and not be destroyed, the manifestation of His glory was shrouded. His divinity was veiled with humanity,--the invisible glory in the visible human form.** {DA 23.1}

Why would we have been destroyed if Christ would have come with His unveiled divinity? Would He have been angry and inflicting death or is death unavoidable for unhealed sinners in the unveiled

glory of God? Does this give us insight as to why the wicked die in the end?

What other reasons did He become incarnate?

He pitched His tent by the side of the tents of men, **that He might dwell among us, and make us familiar with His divine character and life.** DA 23.3

Since Jesus came to dwell with us, **we know that God is acquainted with our trials**, and sympathizes with our griefs. **Every son and daughter of Adam may understand that our Creator is the friend of sinners.** For in every doctrine of grace, every promise of joy, every deed of love, every divine attraction presented in the Saviour's life on earth, we see "God with us." {DA 24.1}

Was God's character called into question? Did human beings fail to know this about God?

Did Christ become incarnate in order to learn something He didn't know? Did God become incarnate to educate Himself? No! He became incarnate to reveal God to us without destroying us, to convince us of God's everlasting goodness and love for us, to overcome our fear and mistrust of Him!

Any other reasons why He had to be made like His brothers in every way? This is addressed in next point of the paragraph which said, He became "the substitute and died in our stead."

What does Hebrews say He needed to accomplish – atonement, and what does this mean? Reconciliation, unity, at-one-ment. How does suffering and being tempted like us enable Him to achieve atonement and help us who are being tempted?

What is the problem sin caused God needed to fix? Did God get changed in some fashion when Adam sinned? Did mankind get changed? Was mankind, after Adam's sin in unity, harmony, oneness with God? No!

What needed to happen? Someone had to restore God's law and character back into the species human. Jesus became like us so that He could accomplish this, so that He could fix humanity, eradicate sin from us and restore mankind into perfection!

The atonement of Christ is not a mere skillful way to have our sins pardoned; **it is a divine remedy for the cure of transgression and the restoration of spiritual health. It is the Heaven-ordained means by which the righteousness of Christ may be not only upon us but in our hearts and characters** (Letter 406, 1906). {6BC 1074.2}

How does Christ help us when we are tempted? He provides us with a new heart and right spirit, He regenerates us into His likeness when we open our hearts to Him.

Nothing but divine power can regenerate the human heart and imbue souls with the love of Christ, which will ever manifest itself with love for those for whom He died. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. **When a man is converted to God, a new moral taste is supplied, a new motive power is given, and he loves the things that God loves.** . . . Love, joy, peace, and inexpressible gratitude will pervade the soul, and the language of him who is blessed will be, "Thy gentleness hath made me great" (Ps. 18:35). {AG 302.2}

But those who are waiting to behold a magical change in their characters without determined effort on their part to overcome sin, will be disappointed. We have no reason to fear while looking to Jesus, no reason to doubt but that He is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto Him. . . . {AG 302.3}

We are to grow daily in spiritual loveliness. **We shall fail often in our efforts to copy the divine pattern. We shall often have to bow down to weep at the feet of Jesus, because of our shortcomings and mistakes; but we are not to be discouraged;** we are to pray more fervently, believe more fully, and try again with more steadfastness to grow into the

likeness of our Lord. **As we distrust our own power, we shall trust the power of our Redeemer**, and render praise to God, who is the health of our countenance, and our God. . . . {AG 302.4}

By beholding we are to become changed; and as we meditate upon the perfections of the divine Model, we shall desire to become wholly transformed, and renewed in the image of His purity. It is by faith in the Son of God that transformation takes place in the character, and the child of wrath becomes the child of God. {AG 302.5}

Why are we not to become discouraged with shortcomings? Because it is not our power that cures or heals us, it is Gods! He has achieved our remedy and cure, ours is merely the daily cooperative walk with Him as He continues to transform us.

Do not settle down in Satan's easy chair, and say that there is no use, you cannot cease to sin, that there is no power in you to overcome. There is no power in you apart from Christ, but it is your privilege to have Christ abiding in your heart by faith, and **He can overcome sin in you, when you cooperate with His efforts**. . . . You may be living epistles, known and read of all men. You are not to be a dead letter, but a living one, testifying to the world that Jesus is able to save. {OHC 76.5}

So why is Christ able to help those who are tempted, because He now knows something He didn't previously know, or because He now achieved something not previously achieved – He now has perfected humanity? He has now cured the human condition in His own person and it is this He offers to us!

Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. Heb 5:8,9

The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give. He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, **coming to the earth as**

man, lived a holy life, and developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them. His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. More than this, **Christ imbues men with the attributes of God. He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character,** a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Rom. 3:26. {DA 762.2}

SUNDAY

Read Romans 8:1,2

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Top section of the lesson asks, "What does 'no condemnation' mean? No condemnation from what?"

From where does condemnation of sinners arise?

- But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by **your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**" Matt 12:36,37
- "As for the person **who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him.** For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. ⁴⁸ There **is a judge for the one who rejects me** and does not accept my words; **that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.** John 12:47,48
- "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and **believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.** John 5:24

What do you understand from these passages about condemnation? From where does it arise? What causes a person to be condemned? Is it not their very own condition of remaining in sin, of retaining a selfish heart, of remaining out of harmony with the very basis of life in God's universe?

What prevents condemnation? Belief in Christ, which results in a transformation within the believer such that they have new hearts, right spirits, and are in harmony with God and His law of love!

The lesson describes a person who is in sin and wretchedness who surrenders to Christ in the third paragraph, "But then..." - thoughts?

Where does the actual change take place? Is it in the standing a person has before God or in the heart of the one who has surrendered to Him? Does God recognize the change in the heart of the believer who previously distrusted God but now trusts Him? Or is God prevented, by Christ, from seeing the true heart condition of the sinner?

Why is there no more condemnation? Is it, as the lesson says, that Christ's perfect record stands for ours? If that were true what would it imply about the source of condemnation? And what does it imply about the solution? Notice, this scenario has the solution as fixing books in heaven rather than fixing sinners.

But Hebrews 8:10 tells us that it is our hearts that get fixed, not records in heaven.

From where does condemnation arise? From the condition of being selfish and alienated from God. The reason there is no more condemnation for those in Christ is because these sinners, while not yet perfected, are in unity, harmony, relationship, friendship with God through their trust in Christ. In other words their hearts have been changed from enemies to friends.

Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also. ¹⁹Our message is that God was in Christ making the whole human race his friends.^d God did not keep an account of their sins, and he has given us the message which tells how he makes them his friends.

20 Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God himself were making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: let God change you from enemies into his friends! 2Cor 5:17-20 GNT

Thoughts? What is God doing? Changing us!

What is the law of the Spirit of life that set us free from the law of sin and death? And what is the law of sin and death?

MONDAY

Read second paragraph, "God provided..." thoughts? Was Christ's life in the likeness of sinful flesh "extremely important" or essential?

TUESDAY

Read Romans 8:5,6:

Those who live as their human nature tells them to, have their minds controlled by what human nature wants. Those who live as the Spirit tells them to, have their minds controlled by what the Spirit wants. ⁶To be controlled by human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace. GNT

Thoughts? Read second paragraph, "To have one's..." thoughts?

^d God was making the whole human race his friends through Christ; or God was in Christ making the whole human race his friends.

Why is such a mind against God? Is it that they consciously choose to say no to God or consciously rebel against God or is it that selfishness is opposed to all that God is? And why is such a state death because God is powerful and will kill or because selfishness goes against His design for life?

WEDNESDAY

Read Romans 8:9-14

But you do not live as your human nature tells you to; instead, you live as the Spirit tells you to—if, in fact, God’s Spirit lives in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ lives in you, the Spirit is life for you because you have been put right with God, even though your bodies are going to die because of sin. If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from death, lives in you, then he who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies by the presence of his Spirit in you.

¹² So then, my brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but it is not to live as our human nature wants us to. For if you live according to your human nature, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you put to death your sinful actions, you will live. ¹⁴Those who are led by God’s Spirit are God’s children.

Thoughts?

THURSDAY

Read versus 15,16

For the Spirit that God has given you does not make you slaves and cause you to be afraid; instead, the Spirit makes you God’s children, and by the Spirit’s power we cry out to God, “Father! my Father!” God’s Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God’s children.

Thoughts? What do you notice from these verses? God's Spirit doesn't make us slaves – why do you think Paul is saying this? What is he telling us? What is the lesson?

And Paul says the Spirit won't make us afraid – what is the importance of this? Any other texts bear on this? How about “perfect love casts out all fear.”

What does it mean to be a child of God? Does it mean we reveal God in us? His image is again reproduced in us?

What does it mean God's Spirit joins himself to ours?

FRIDAY

Read fourth paragraph, “Our ransom...” thoughts? What does a ransom do? Frees from bondage, what holds us in bondage? Lies about God and sinful nature – what is the price to free us? The truth about God and a new nature purified!

Read question 2 and discuss.