

Theme: Question 23: Why must the Redeemer be perfectly righteous? The Redeemer must be perfectly righteous so that His obedience and sacrifice in our place will be acceptable to God.

I. Intro - Ruben Enaje

- A. A Filipino construction worker who fell down an unfinished building
- B. He unexpectedly survived the fall
- C. To show thanks to God he is crucified every Good Friday - 33 years in a row from 1985-2019
- D. This is clearly not what God wants, but it raises a question
- E. Why did Jesus' death save us, but not others?
- F. What was required for the death of the Redeemer to be able to save humanity?
- G. Question 21: What sort of Redeemer and Mediator is needed to bring us back to God? One who is perfectly righteous, truly human and truly God.
- H. Last week we looked at truly human, this week perfectly righteous.
- I. See the theme statement

II. The Redeemer - In Our Place He Stood

- A. Jesus is the 2nd Adam Who stood in our place
 - 1. We went over this in detail last week
 - 2. Why must the Redeemer be perfectly righteous? The Redeemer must be perfectly righteous so that His obedience and sacrifice **in our place** will be acceptable to God.

B. Two components of Jesus standing in our place

Question 23: Why must the Redeemer be perfectly righteous? The Redeemer must be perfectly righteous so that His **obedience** and **sacrifice** in our place will be acceptable to God.

- 1. Jesus obeyed in our place, keeping God's Law for us, so that His righteousness could be given to us
For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, **so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.** Romans 5:19
 - a. Jesus' obedience is imputed to us
 - b. Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in Him we stand.
- 2. Jesus suffered in our place, being sacrificed to take the punishment we were due
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.** Hebrews 2:17
 - a. Jesus died to atone for our sins
 - b. Atonement - appease the wrath of God
 - c. This is unpopular, but the Scripture is clear that God has wrath against sin and that Jesus died to bear that wrath
But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

1. Pierced, crushed, punished - for our sins
2. This is atonement - suffering in our place

d. In Christ Alone

'Til on that cross as Jesus died
 The wrath of God was satisfied
 For every sin on Him was laid
 Here in the death of Christ I live, I live

3. The Redeemer must obey and be sacrificed in our place so that our sins can be forgiven and we can be restored to relationship with God.

III. A Perfectly Righteous Redeemer

A. Jesus is the perfectly righteous Redeemer

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were **redeemed** from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with **the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.** 1 Peter 1:18–19

1. We could not be redeemed by perishable things like silver and gold - they can't pay for our sin!
2. We were Redeemed by the precious blood of Christ
3. Jesus is a Lamb with blemish or defect - perfect
4. This refers to the fact that He is sinless and thus can offer Himself as a payment for our sin
 Such a high priest meets our need — **one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners,** exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, **he does not need to offer sacrifices** day after day, **first for his own sins,** and then for the sins of the people. **He sacrificed for their sins once for all** when he offered himself. Hebrews 7:26–27

- a. Jesus is not only the Lamb - He is High Priest

- b. He is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners

5. This is language for the sacrificial animal

If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he is to offer a male without defect. He must present it at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting so that it will be acceptable to the Lord. ⁴ He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him. Levit. 1:3–4

- a. The lamb had to be without defect - perfect
- b. The person had to put their hands on the animal to transfer their sin to the animal
- c. The animal would then bear the penalty due to the sinful human

6. Jesus is the spotless Lamb of God Who took our sin upon Himself, bearing the punishment we were due so that we might be saved!

B. Why the Redeemer must be perfect - God's holiness

1. As we have seen humans owed God perfect obedience, so the Redeemer had to be perfect
2. The foundation of all this is God's character
 Question 7: What is God's character like?
 God is perfect in holiness, love, and integrity.

Question 8: What does God demand of you?
 God demands that I be perfect in holiness, love, and integrity.

- a. As the image of God, we must be like Him
- b. God is not just love - he is perfect in holiness and integrity
- c. The law is a reflection of God's character

- d. Many today want to say God is love but ignore holiness, but the character trait most often attributed to God is holiness.
- e. Furthermore, the only aspect attributed three times is holiness!

And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." Isaiah 6:3

Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." Revelation 4:8
- f. This means God does not abide sin, and He will not change simply because His image-bearers are sinful

3. The requirement for the Redeemer to be perfect, without sin, is not arbitrary but is rooted in the eternal, unchanging nature and character of God.

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I see that redemption is required by God's Perfect Eternal character?
 - 1. Redemption is not some extra add-on; it is required by God's character and our sin
 - 2. If we distort God's character, we will distort the nature of sin and salvation - After Hours
 - 3. God is Perfect in holiness, love, and integrity
 - 4. This means He will judge all sin, will work to save sinners, and will not change
 - 5. Any idea of redemption that discounts or dismisses the holiness and unchanging character of God and focuses exclusively on 'love' will be false.

B. Do I see that redemption requires perfect obedience and suffering in my place?

- 1. The OT sacrificial system foreshadows the true redemption found in the New Covenant
- 2. Sin requires an animal without blemish to suffer and die in the place of the sinner
- 3. A blemished animal could not become a substitute for the sinner
- 4. Because God is Perfect in holiness, love, and integrity, and because He demands His image-bearers be perfect in holiness, love, and redemption, the Redeemer MUST be perfect
- 5. Jesus is the Perfectly Righteous Redeemer - a Lamb without spot or defect, a Priest that is holy, blameless, pure, and set apart from sinners!
- 6. This Perfect One offered Himself in our place - and His sacrifice is acceptable and capable to pay for our sin, remove our sin, and bring us to God!
- 7. Before the Throne of God above we have a strong and perfect plea - Jesus Christ the Righteous One Who has atoned for us and ever lives to intercede for us!

C. The Table of Perfect Redemption

- 1. Here we remember and confess our sin
- 2. Here we remember the perfect redemption given by Christ!
- 3. Here we come boldly to the throne of grace to receive help!

Our Perfectly Righteous Redeemer

Romans 5:19; Hebrews 2:17; 1 Peter 1:18-19

January 16, 2022

Communion

Revelation 1:4-6

Teaching keywords: Redemption; Christology; God's character; atonement;
2nd Adam; humanity; Humanity of Christ

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth, Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father — to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.
Revelation 1:4–6

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19

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.
Hebrews 2:17

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 1 Peter 1:18–19