Christology
Part 2: The Work of Jesus Christ

Recap: Last class we discussed the person of Jesus Christ. We looked at the hypostatic union and Who He is in His divine nature and His human nature. This week, we will examine the other section of Christology which is the *work* of Jesus Christ. So, we are looking at how He functioned and functions as the God-man.

Two Categories of the Work of Christ:

1. Humiliation: Jesus' Incarnation, life of obedience, temptation, betrayal, trial, and His death (passion).
    1. The righteous Judge was unjustly tried.
    2. The author of life was savagely murdered.
    3. Innocent Jesus died a criminal's death.
    4. Horrific whips, had to carry the cross, suffocated on the cross; Jesus died the death reserved for the worst of humanity.
2. Exaltation: His Resurrection, Ascension, and His second coming.
    1. In the Resurrection, Jesus conquered sin and death.
    2. In the Ascension, Jesus returned to the Father and sat at His right hand because the work is finished.
    3. At His second coming (parousia), the ultimate vindication of Jesus' exaltation will take place as He judges His enemies and lives with His redeemed.

The Offices of Christ: Jesus holds a three-fold office (munus triplex). He is the Prophet, Priest, and King.

- Prophet: A prophet proclaimed the Word of the Lord. Jesus, being God in flesh, revealed God to people.
    - John 9:17 - "So they said to the blind man again, 'What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?' And he said, 'He is a prophet.'"
    - Acts 3:17-24 (Go read).
- Priest: The priest would represent the people to God. Christ is the greater Priest, mediator, intercessor, once and for all sacrifice, priest forever in order of Melchizedek.
    - Hebrews 5:1-10 (Go read).
- King: The king was to represent God's rule and reign. Jesus rules over all things. His Kingdom advances under His leadership. He is the Great King.
    - Deuteronomy 17:14-20.

We preach the good news, offer sacrifices (worship), rule and reign with Christ.

The Atonement: What Christ accomplished for us in His death.
*If God wanted to save us, this is the only way to do it.

When we say atonement, we mean that someone had to pay someone for our sin. We are being made right with God by appeasing His wrath. Now, there are many theories as to what this means…

Theories of the Atonement:

1. Ransom Theory: Since we lived in the domain of darkness, Christ had to pay a ransom to Satan to return us back to God.
    1. Origen coined this.
    2. C.S. Lewis held to this view. Narnia displayed it as Aslan died to ransom Edmond from the witch.
2. Satisfaction Theory: God's honor needed to be restored by a man because a man dishonored Him, but only God has the ability to restore such a thing. Thus, only the God-man could do this.
    1. Anselm.
3. Moral Influence Theory: Rejects the notion that a payment had to be made to appease God's wrath because God is a God of love and wanted to demonstrate His love for us by experiencing our pain.
    1. Peter Abelard
4. Example Theory: God's justice did not need to be satisfied; Jesus just died as an example. This simply shows us how we are to live.
    1. Faustus Socinus
5. Government Theory: Since God is the ruler of the universe, He can just waive the penalty and save people. Christ died not to pay a penalty, but to show that when you sin, a penalty must be paid. This encouraged people to not sin.
    1. Hugo Grotius
    2. Essentially, "don't sin or the dog gets it!"
6. Penal Substitution Theory: Christ took the penalty (death) for sin in our place.
    1. 1 Corinthians 5:7, "Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed."
    2. Hebrews 9:26-28, "Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgement, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him."
    3. Go read Romans 5:8-10 and 2 Corinthians 5:21.
    4. What did this accomplish for us?
        1. Propitiation: Satisfied God's wrath that we deserved.
        2. Expiation: Jesus took away our sin and guilt.
        3. Redemption: Jesus paid our ransom to set us free from sin.
        4. Reconciliation: Jesus restored shalom (peace).
        5. Cosmic Victory: Jesus is victorious over His enemies and ours.

5. Rejections of Penal Substitution:
    1. God could have just waived the penalty for our sin. (No, that would make Him unjust. Sin must be punished.)
    2. Some say it was unjust. (No, our sin is still being paid for. It is being paid for by Christ).
    3. Divine Child Abuse (Foolishness. Did God kill Jesus? Yes. Did Jesus go to the cross unwillingly? No.)
    4. Mention "In Christ Alone."

The Extent of the Atonement:

Unlimited Atonement (General Redemption): Though Jesus died for everyone, the atonement was only applied to the elect.

- Notice how this does not just say "Jesus died for everyone." There are qualifiers even within the unlimited view. Not everyone will be saved, so those who hold this this position have to limit the atonement in some way, otherwise, you have universalism, which we know is a heresy.
- They will say, "Jesus' blood is of supreme worth, why could it not just cover it all?"
    - 1 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."
    - John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him will have eternal life."
    - 1 Timothy 4:10, "For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers."

Limited Atonement (Particular Redemption / Purposeful Atonement): Jesus died only for the elect.

- The "whosoever" passages have conditions (believes) and so do the "all" and "everyone" passages. Context is key!
- Everyone is called, but only the elect will answer because God has first regenerated them.
- Christ's sacrifice is limited in its purpose but not in its value. Sufficient for all, efficient for the elect.
- Synod of Dort, "All who are called by the gospel are called seriously, seriously God promises eternal life to all who believe."
- Christ laid down His life for His own.
    - John 10:14-15, "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep."
    - John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (Not everyone will be saved. Christianity is exclusive.)
    - Acts 20:28, "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the *flock*, among you which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."
    - Romans 8:29-32 (Go read).

- The Bible does not teach that through Christ's work salvation was made *possible*, rather it teaches that through Christ's work, salvation was *accomplished*.
  - Galatians 3:13, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law…" This is a fact. It happened.
  - 1 Peter 2:24, "and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross."
- Look at Jesus' High Priestly Prayer in John 17. He was interceding on behalf of His people, not the entire world.
- "Every drop of blood that Jesus shed, covered ever person it was intended to cover." - James White.
- There is not a drop of Jesus' blood wasted on a possibility of belief, but rather it fully covers all who the Lord has foreknown.

This is what we call a tertiary issue. We do not have to break fellowship over this matter. Now, each view holds to a type of limited atonement. It really comes down to details. Either view is an orthodox view. I believe Limited Atonement is more accurate, however.
If you hold to complete unlimited, then Jesus died for everyone and it applies to everyone, so everyone is saved. That's where you get into heresy (universalism).

Any Questions?
Let's Pray!