



Who is Jesus?

Part 3: Savior of his people

Discussion

Read Romans 1:18-21; 3:9-26; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 6:23

What did Jesus do to save us?

What did Jesus saves us from?

What does this salvation include?

Christ's sacrificial death on the cross is at the center of his saving (atoning) work on our behalf. As such, it is the fulfillment of God's ancient promise in Genesis 3:15 to make us and all things new. As Pastor John mentioned in this episode, the Old Covenant sacrificial system foreshadowed Christ's final (New Covenant) sacrifice to come.

Read Hebrews 10:1-18

How and why were the Old Covenant sacrifices incomplete? How did the New Covenant sacrifice of Christ complete and replace these sacrifices? Why does this matter?

Whether they knew it or not, God's mercy to Old Covenant believers was based solely on what Christ would accomplish for them at the cross. This must be true, since only the atoning work of Christ could satisfy God's justice, so that he could us mercy (see Romans 3:9-26 above). God allowed the death of animals to be a placeholder that pointed to the final sacrifice of Christ (the Lamb of God) to come. This allowed Old Covenant believers to fall upon God's mercy to receive forgiveness for their sins. But because these sacrifices were incomplete, they had to be offered over and again. We who are in Christ rest in the knowledge that his single sacrifice was wholly sufficient to pay for and remove our sins from God's sight forever.

How does it feel, knowing Christ's sacrifice, by itself, paid for and cancelled all your past, present, and future sins?

How would your experience with God change if you lived like this was true?

How would your view of yourself change if you lived each day as God's forgiven child?

Additional Study

“Atonement” is an important Biblical word that can refer, generally, to all Christ has done to forgive our sins and render us righteous in God’s sight. More narrowly, it refers to Christ’s substitutionary, “wrath-of-God-averting” sacrifice for sins, through which God cancels our sins and reconciles us to himself. To think more about the atonement:

- Read [Getting to the Heart of Atonement](#), by Bill Mounce.
- See Grudem's, [Systematic Theology](#), *The Atonement*, pp. 568-580
- Listen to Pastor John's Sermons, [Sharp Edges](#) and [The King on a Cross](#).
- See, The Bible Project, [Sacrifice & Atonement](#)

“Justification” refers to God’s declaration that those who have been united to the righteous Christ through faith are now righteous in his sight. Our righteousness in Christ includes forgiveness and acquittal from sin (e.g, Romans 3:24, 28), as well as the fact that God imputes to us the very righteousness of Christ (e.g., Romans 5:19; 2 Corinthians 5:21). For more on the doctrine of justification:

See Grudem, [Systematic Theology](#), *Justification*, pp. 722-732.