

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW

Part Five

We learned in our last lesson that salvation, on the practical side, means that we are delivered from being an enemy of God. We are able to spend all eternity with Him because of this salvation plan. We also learn how salvation looked to each of the persons of the trinity; God being three persons in ONE being. Remember our example of an egg? It has a shell a white and a yolk but it is called an "egg". God is called "God" and yet He is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

God **the Father** is the "architect" of the salvation plan. Architects are people who design buildings and structures and make sure that they are not going to collapse once they are built. God **the Son** (Jesus Christ) is the one who executed or acted out the plan. God **the Holy Spirit** is the one who teaches the Plan and gives the Power to execute, or act out, the Plan. Because of the work of Christ on the cross, the barrier between mankind and God is now removed! God was in Christ as the Architect of the plan, and Christ fulfilled that plan on the cross. This is the basis of being reconciled (relationship restored) to God.

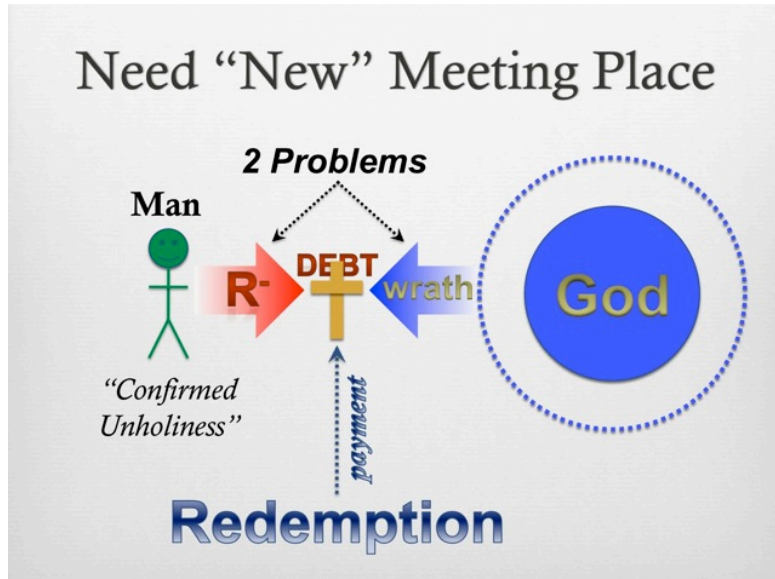
Once sin entered the picture God could not have a relationship with His creatures because He is perfect and He cannot be in the presence of sin. So, in order to restore our relationship (reconcile), He designed the perfect plan of Salvation. All that His creatures need to do is accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We committed sin against God. We offended Him and, yet, He went and did all of this for us! It says, "Not counting their trespasses (sins) against them.." This means that "sin", as a whole, is no longer an issue. Sin is not the reason we can't have fellowship with God. The issue is that we don't have HIS perfect righteousness IN us for Him to fellowship with! The only way we get His perfect righteousness is by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. When we do, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit live within us. The perfect righteousness of God now dwells within us and THEN, and ONLY THEN, can God have fellowship with us.

Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice. His blood had to be shed to pay for all sins forever. Remember we studied it wasn't His real blood that saved us, but His payment for sin on the cross, which is symbolized by "blood".

Ephesians 1:7 *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.*

There is something called the Law of Double Jeopardy. This means that once the punishment or penalty for a crime has been paid, it CANNOT be paid for again. So, even if we want to pay for our sins, we CAN'T because the full price was paid on the cross. Not that we could ever do so, but as a point, please remember sin is paid for in

full! No one will go to Hell because they sinned! They will go there because they chose not to accept Jesus Christ and all He did to pay for their sins! Salvation is available to ALL mankind by FAITH alone in Christ alone! It has always been this way. Those who were born before Jesus came in the flesh believed in the Messiah/Savior that was to come. Those who are alive after Jesus Christ came to earth believe in Him as the one who already came and paid the price for sin.



No matter what period of time in human history, the only way that man can receive the perfect righteousness of God is by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. And as we have learned, this is what God fellowships with! His OWN perfect righteousness within us! We live in the period of time, or the dispensation (big word for period of time from God's outline of history) called the Church Age. In the Church age, and only in the Church Age, believers receive DOUBLE perfect righteousness when they believe in Jesus Christ. Not only do we have the perfect righteousness of God within us, we also have the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ in us! WOW!

We have learned a lot of big words in our past few lessons: redemption, reconciliation and justification. Do you remember what they mean? Let's review them so that you have them in your memory.

REDEMPTION - a payment for sin in accordance to the demands of the offended righteousness of God against sin. Jesus Christ is the payment (remember our coupon story).

JUSTIFICATION - To justify means to declare righteous. We believe in Jesus Christ who paid the price for all of our sins. We are then justified and God is free to bless us and have fellowship with us.

RECONCILIATION - the change from a state of hostility to a state of peace, to change from enmity to friendship (Remember our meeting place diagrams). God reconciled us TO Himself!

2 Corinthians 5:18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Another new big word is PROPITIATION. This means that God is totally satisfied with the entire work of Christ. He has accepted His sacrifice as payment for all sins! The offering that Jesus Christ offered turns God's wrath toward sin away and removes it from the picture. God's wrath, or righteous anger, was poured out towards our sin and ON JESUS CHRIST while on the cross. Jesus Christ satisfied His wrath with the perfect payment for sin!