

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW

Part One

So, what is that God wants every Christian to know?

1 Timothy 2:4 *“who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”*

God wants us to know how He saved us from sin and then made it possible to live a righteous life for His glory. He wants this not only for our benefit, but so that we may share this Truth with others.

Matthew 28:19-20 *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...”*

The good news of salvation, the Gospel, is that Jesus Christ, God the Son who became a man and remained sinless, willingly bore the judgement for the sins of His children, died on a cross, and then was raised from the dead (resurrected) to overcome death, itself. All of this so that those who repent and believe in Him as Lord and Savior will be saved from sin and its penalty, then graciously granted an eternity with God in Heaven.

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

The Bible describes the work of God in salvation using some pretty big words: redemption, justification, reconciliation, propitiation, and expiation. It is important for believers in Jesus Christ to know these words and what they mean because God wants us to. He had them written down in His Word to help us understand the miracle of salvation and how to share it with others.

First, we will learn about redemption. Redemption is defined as *“the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt”*. There are two parts to this definition, the first is the idea of buying something. The Bible says we are born slaves to sin. A slave is a person who is bought by another person, considered their property, and must obey them. Being a slave to sin means that we do what our flesh tells us to, obeying its selfish desires instead of God’s perfect ones. Part of the work of salvation through Jesus Christ is that we are “purchased” by God with the “blood” of Christ and believers in Him now belong to Him and are His slaves. This is a bit confusing, right? Just know that believers in Jesus Christ now belong and answer to God and have been freed from the control of sin, living to please Him, not self. God makes His power

available to His children so they are able to follow His perfect commands and say “no” to the sinful temptations from the flesh.

Romans 6:16-18, 22 *“Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.”*

The second part of this definition describes a debt being paid for. The Bible tells us that those who sin have earned death, both physical and spiritual, which means separation from God. Right now, all people can see and feel God around them in His creation. Imagine being cast out of His presence- living with no light, love, joy, beauty, or peace- ugh. Sinners deserve to be separated from Him forever.

Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

The Bible also tells us that this debt of death and separation can only be “paid off” with the life blood from a sacrifice made to God.

Hebrews 9:23 *“In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”*



So, you see, the only thing that could pay off our debt from sin and free us from our slavery to sin was blood and death. This had to be from a sinless sacrifice, though, or it would be imperfect and unacceptable to God. Since we are all born sinners, our own life blood could never be enough. So, God came down as a man, remained sinless, and then paid the price with His own blood and death. Think about that one for a moment. Jesus took the punishment for our sin. He redeemed us, bought us and paid our debt, with His very own blood and life. We have so much to be thankful for! We are so blessed to belong to Him!

Ephesians 1:7 *“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace”*

Hebrews 9:12,14 *“He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”*