

Lecture 23 – The Saving Work of Christ (cont.)

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’” John 1:29

Key Terms

Ransom, satisfaction, moral influence, example, governmental

Objectives

- *Identify and summarize various views of the atonement.
- *Identify and explain various aspects of Christ’s saving work.
- *Explore the impact of these elements on our life and ministry.

The Saving Work of Christ

IV. The Saving Work of Christ

A. Isaiah 52:13-53:12

B. Historical views of the atonement

1. Ransom to Satan
2. Satisfaction
3. Moral influence
4. Example
5. Governmental

Prayers and Meditations of St. Anselm, trans. by Benedicta Ward

C. A systematic summary of Christ’s saving work

1. Christ’s death is salvific. (*only “d” is mentioned on the CD lecture*)
 - a. The OT background is Exodus 12; Leviticus 1-9; Isaiah 53; Jeremiah 31.
 - b. The NT beginnings of the doctrine of redemption are found in the ransom saying of Mark 10:45 (Matthew 20:28).
 - c. The NT beginnings of the doctrines of redemption and atonement are found in the Eucharistic sayings of Jesus (Luke 22:14-23; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25).
 - d. As the Lamb of God, He took away the sins of the world (John 1:29, 36).
 - e. As the subject of Caiaphas’ prophecy, He died for the nation of Israel and for Gentiles (John 11:49-53).
 - f. As the grain of wheat, He died and bore fruit (John 12:20-26).
 - g. As priestly sacrifice, He consecrated all that the Father had given Him (John 17:19).
 - h. As God, He bought the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28).
 - i. He died as a redemption and propitiation (Romans 3:24-25).
 - j. As the obedient second Adam, His one act of righteousness brought justification to His people (Romans 5:12-21).
 - k. He redeemed believers from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for them (Galatians 3:10-13).
 - l. As a condemned man, He died in our place (Colossians 2:13-15).
 - m. As the great and final high priest, He offered Himself as the final sacrifice for sin (Hebrews).
2. Christ’s death is voluntary. (*only “a” is mentioned on the CD lecture*).
 - a. The Son of Man came to give His life a ransom (Mark 10:35).
 - b. The Good Shepherd willingly laid down His life (John 10:17, 18).
 - c. As the priestly sacrifice, He consecrated Himself (John 17:19).
 - d. Christ willingly came into the world to offer His body as a sacrifice (Hebrews 10:5-

- 10).
3. Christ's death is substitutionary. (*only "c" is mentioned on the CD lecture*)
 - a. The OT background is Leviticus 1-9 and Isaiah 53.
 - b. The NT beginnings of the doctrine are found in Mark 10:45 (ransom saying) and Luke 22 and parallels (eucharistic sayings).
 - c. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11, 15).
 - d. Jesus died for the nation of Israel and for the scattered children of God (John 11:49-53).
 - e. Christ redeemed believers from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for them (Galatians 3:10-13).
 - f. Christ died as a condemned man in the place of his people (Colossians 2:13-15).
 - g. Christ died as a sacrifice for the sins of His people (Hebrews 9:28; 7:27).
 4. Christ's death is according to divine appointment. (*only "a" - "c" are mentioned on the CD lecture*)
 - a. OT background: it was the Lord's will to crush the servant of the Lord and cause Him to suffer (Isaiah 53:10).
 - b. This concept is found in the eucharistic sayings of Jesus (Luke 22:14-23 and parallels).
 - c. The Son of Man must be lifted up (John 3:14).
 - d. The Good Shepherd went to the cross in obedience to the Father (John 10:18).
 - e. The Victor went to the cross in obedience to God's will (John 14:31).
 - f. The death of Christ was planned by God (Acts 2:23; 4:27-28).
 - g. God set forth Jesus as a propitiation (Romans 3:24-25).
 - h. Christ came as the Great Shepherd who shed the blood of the eternal covenant (Hebrews 13:20).
 5. Scripture uses various themes/pictures to present Christ's saving death.
 - a. Overview
 - 1) Christ's death is a mighty victory.
 - 2) The death of Jesus Christ, the second Adam, overturns the effects of Adam's fall.
 - 3) Christ's death is sometimes presented in Scripture in legal terms.
 - 4) Christ's death is sometimes presented in Scripture in priestly terms as a sacrifice.
 - 5) Christ's death is an example.
 - 6) Christ's death is revelatory.
 - 7) Christ's death ratifies the new covenant.
 - 8) Christ's death is the basis for justification.
 - 9) Christ's death accomplishes redemption/reconciliation.
 - b. Dr. Peterson's thesis