

Lecture 27 – The Saving Work of Christ (cont.)

“And they sang a new song: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.’”
Revelation 5:9

Key Terms

Prophet, priest, king; humiliation and exaltation; propitiation; particular versus universal

Objectives

- *Identify and describe biblical “pictures” used to present Christ’s saving death.
- *Explore some implications of these pictures for our own lives as those “united to Christ.”

The Saving Work of Christ

IV. The Saving Work of Christ

A. Isaiah 52:13-53:12

B. Historical views of the atonement

C. A systematic summary of Christ’s saving work

1. Christ’s death is salvific.
2. Christ’s death is voluntary.
3. Christ’s death is substitutionary.
4. Christ’s death is according to divine appointment.
5. Scripture uses various themes/pictures to present Christ’s saving death.
6. Christ’s saving work includes these events:
7. The Son of God is Savior in His offices of prophet, priest, and king.
(Heb. 1 and whole epistle). Here we see the inseparability of Christ’s person and saving work. When we studied Christ’s person we emphasized that the NT Christology was functional. Now in studying His saving work we underscore the fact that it is His saving work.
8. Christ’s saving work involves His two states: His sufferings and glory (1 Peter).
The big Petrine pictures of suffering and glory serve to unite the person and work of Christ, His two states, and the believer’s union with Him in His saving work.
9. Christ’s death is a propitiation, directed toward God the Father.
Jesus’ death vindicates the righteous character of God the Father and turns away His wrath (Rom. 3:24-25). We thus find a beautiful complexity in the cross. It is directed toward: God (here), our sin and guilt (the idea of redemption) our enemies including Satan (the theme of Christus Victor), and toward believers and even the world (the idea of Christ’s death as an example).
10. Jesus’ death is particular.
 - a. Limited atonement
 - 1) Christ died “for His people.”
 - 2) A deduction from other doctrines
 - 3) An inference from the nature of the atonement
 - 4) The historical link between election and atonement
 - b. Universal atonement
 - 1) Universal passages: “world” and “all”
 - 2) Some for whom Christ died will perish (1 Corinthians 8:11; Romans 14:15).
 - 3) The universal proclamation of the gospel
 - 4) Limited atonement contradicts God’s love for the world.

5) Four passages to prove universal atonement

- a) 1 Timothy 4:10
- b) 1 John 2:2
- c) Isaiah 53
- d) 2 Peter 2:1