

7 The Creator Redeems

¹The result of Adam's sin was death. Not only his, but the spiritual and physical death of all his children, including you and me. Throughout His Word, God points to His answer for sin, the Seed of the woman.² Through creation and judgment God revealed Himself as holy, all powerful, all knowing, ever present and eternal. Because we, as finite beings, have sinned against this infinite God, the only appropriate punishment for us is an infinite punishment, or for an infinite One to take the punishment of death once.

Hebrews 10:4 tells us that animal sacrifices cannot take away sin.³ However, *“we have been sanctified (made holy, purified) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*⁴

When the serpent deceived Eve and Adam sinned, God foretold Jesus' sacrifice for man's sin. *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”*⁵ Animal sacrifices had to be offered repeatedly because they could not remove sin, but they acknowledged our sin and reminded us of our need for God's mercy.

Jesus

Jesus took our punishment for sin, and because He is eternal, existing with God before the beginning, His sacrifice

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for our sins was effective forever.

...the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 1 Corinthians 11:23-24

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matthew 26:27-28

Jesus told His disciples at His last supper that His body would be broken for us and that His blood would seal the new covenant and free us from punishment for our sins.

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:9-10

Because God loves us He paid the price for our redemption and pardon through His Son Jesus, the Seed of the Woman, the eternal Word made flesh and dwelling with us. That payment was sufficient, complete and final.

Who is this King of glory?

To fully understand what Christ did for us, we must understand who He is. The gospels of Matthew and Luke tell us Jesus was born of a virgin named Mary. Why a virgin? Because our sin nature and death was passed on to us by our father Adam.⁶ God told Satan in the garden that the Seed of the woman would overcome him. For God to accept a holy and sinless sacrifice to redeem us from sin, He had to conceive the sacrifice in a pure woman's womb without the sin nature imparted by a human male. Matthew and Luke

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tell us that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb, and He should "be called the Son of the Highest" and "the Son of God"⁷

John gave us a different view of Christ's origin. He declared that Jesus was existing with God and as God from the beginning. Paul concurred in Colossians 1:17 that Christ "*is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*" He told the Philippians that Jesus was in the form of God, and was equal with God before He took on the likeness of men.⁸

The facts of creation are important to the Christian's faith because Jesus was the Word through Whom all things were made. John emphasized that nothing exists that was not made through Him.⁹ Paul stated that everything was created by Him, through Him and for Him.¹⁰ The Book of Hebrews begins with the statement that God made all things through His Son.¹¹

The only way for man to be redeemed from sin and restored to a full relationship with God was for God to take the full punishment Himself. But since it was man that had to be judged a Man must be worthy to be an innocent substitute. So "*the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,*"¹² and "*the love of God was manifested toward us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*"¹³

It's really simple.¹⁴ Jesus of Nazareth clearly claimed to be the Christ, the Anointed One and the Son of God. After His resurrection, His followers declared that He was the eternal God come in the flesh.¹⁵ Either Jesus is the Son of God sent to take away the sins of the world, or he was not. If a fraud or a lunatic made the claims Jesus made they would be proven false by the lack of evidence.

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Some claim that He never existed. It's an illogical cop-out. The evidence that Jesus is who He said He was is vast

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and undeniable.¹⁶ People accept that William Shakespeare wrote in England, that Hannibal crossed the Alps with elephants, and that the Greeks fought the Trojans. The historical evidence for the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth is more compelling than for any of these.

What About Us?

If Jesus of Nazareth is God in the flesh who came to save sinners and the perfect fulfillment of God's plan revealed from the beginning, what does that mean to the children of Adam who are living in this world that is corrupted by sin? How do we apply this truth to our lives and our families?

Acts chapter 2 describes the first time that the disciples preached Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The response from the hearers showed that they understood the enormity of what had happened in their midst:

“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”¹⁷

Peter's direction to them is threefold: Change your mind about Jesus Christ, do something to acknowledge that change, and receive what God has provided for you through Him.¹⁸

The Jews in Jerusalem had obviously been wrong about Jesus. Their first step was to change their minds about Him. We all have wrong ideas about Jesus until we change our minds and acknowledge that He is the Creator, Lord and Savior, and that only His sacrifice can redeem us from our sin. After we realize our error and the truth of Jesus Christ, we must act on it. Baptism is a public declaration that we have changed our minds about Jesus and a demonstration of our belief in His death, burial and resurrection. But the change which we declare by baptism should also be evident in the way we live. Some of the habits of our old life die hard, and to live in Christ we need His help. Peter's third

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instruction is to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. He and the other disciples had just received this gift and understood that it was to be shared with everyone who believes. Peter declares, *“For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”* The phrase “all who are afar off” includes you and me. God intends all of us who believe in Jesus Christ to receive His blessings, including the Holy Spirit, which is a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy¹⁹ and Jesus' teaching and directions.²⁰

Who Am I?

If Jesus is who He says He is, who am I?

I am a human, created to reflect God's image but defiled by sin passed to me by Adam's act of disobedience. My inability to function without sin reflects that first disobedience, knowingly acting against the laws of God. Paul agreed, saying *“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells”*.²¹ I cannot live in a way that pleases God without faith in His Son.²² Jesus took the punishment that I deserve to suffer for my sin. Because He is God and Man, He was able to pay for sin once for all humans. Just as Adam's disobedience was enough to pass sin to all men, Christ's obedience is enough to cleanse all men from sin.²³

The penalty for each of our sins has been paid by Jesus and we only have to accept the fact that His sacrifice is enough and live like we are redeemed from the power of sin.²⁴ Paul explains how it works in Romans 10:9-10:

“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Salvation involves your most important element, your inner man, the part of you that cannot be seen and is eternal.

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Your heart must believe that Jesus is Lord, that He lived, died for all men, and was raised from the dead by God to impart righteousness to us. To that belief you must add action, confessing with your mouth what you believe.

God created light and everything up to man by speaking His Word. John identified Jesus as the embodiment of the Word of God.²⁵ Solomon recognized the power of speaking our beliefs, saying *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”*²⁶

We will all confess that Jesus is Lord eventually:

*“And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**”* Philippians 2:8-11.

For some, this confession will be too late, but we have the opportunity while we live on earth and have authority with our words to embrace this truth, confess it, and act on it as a choice of our free will.

Your Choice Now

Are you ready to receive salvation and blessing from the Creator of the universe?²⁷ Are you ready to begin a new existence as a child of God?²⁸ Are you ready to enter the holy place, the throne room of God, by the authority that has been given you by faith in Jesus?²⁹

If you have changed your mind about Jesus and believe that He is the way, the truth, and the life,³⁰ confess it. Here's a simple way to act on what you believe:

Tell someone else that you believe with all your

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heart that:

1. Jesus is the Son of God³¹
2. You are a sinner³²
3. Jesus' death was sufficient for your redemption³³
4. God raised Him back to life from death³⁴
5. This faith in God is now the motivation for all your actions.³⁵

Authority

Jesus fulfilled the Law and the Prophets,³⁶ written over thousands of years, and met all the requirements for our salvation.³⁷ In Revelation the inhabitants of heaven proclaim that He is worthy to receive praise and authority because He redeemed us with His blood.³⁸

During Jesus' temptation in the wilderness the devil claims to rule all the kingdoms of the earth because they were delivered to him.³⁹ In the garden, he rebelled against God and usurped Adam's authority.⁴⁰ When Adam sinned, God proclaimed that there would be conflict between Satan's followers and men, and that the Seed of the woman would crush Satan's head, which is his authority.⁴¹ Shortly before His death Jesus proclaimed "the ruler of this world will be cast out."⁴² Later Jesus refers to Satan again as "the ruler of this world" and that he had no authority over Him,⁴³ and that he was already judged.⁴⁴

After His resurrection Jesus declared that all authority is now His in heaven and on earth.⁴⁵ In Revelation 1:5-6 John said that Jesus, as the Ruler of the kings of the earth, has washed us in His blood and made us kings and priests to God.⁴⁶ Christ's authority is now higher than any other, and through it He restores man's authority to those who believe in Him.

A List of Five

To conclude this chapter, I want to point out five ways the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus effects us. There's nothing special about a list of five items, men just like to categorize knowledge to make it easier to understand and remember. God created the animals in categorized groups (birds, creeping things, etc.) so I think we're in good company. This list is not comprehensive or conclusive,⁴⁷ but hopefully it will give us a foundation for what we will examine in the next chapters.

1. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, which includes all of us. His blood redeems us⁴⁸ from the curse of sin,⁴⁹ makes us clean,⁵⁰ and makes us able to approach the holy presence of the Most High God without fear.⁵¹
2. He came to destroy the results of the devil's rebellion in our lives.⁵² He overcame the world⁵³ and its rulers⁵⁴ to establish the kingdom of God on earth.⁵⁵
3. He established us as children of a loving Father who only wants what is best for us.⁵⁶
4. He gave us authority as kings and priests,⁵⁷ and representatives of our God⁵⁸ and to our God.⁵⁹
5. He gave us the responsibility to reach others with the Gospel,⁶⁰ first those in our family, then our community, our country, and the world.

Our Conduct

And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1

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Peter 1:17-19

Now that we understand what Jesus did for us, let's look at how to live it in our families. The following chapters will examine the idea that since Jesus reconciled us with God, that relationship should be evident in all areas of our lives, especially our families.

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Applications

1. “Jesus took our punishment for sin, and because He is eternal, existing with God before the beginning, His sacrifice for our sins was effective forever.” How do we know Jesus is eternal? Why does that make His sacrifice sufficient for our redemption?
2. What were the three steps Peter described to the Jews in Acts 2:38? Have you ever been wrong about someone or something and had to change your mind? Did it change your worldview?
3. Paul, one of the greatest apostles, said *“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells.”* What is your opinion of yourself? Is it based on the Bible, or on the world's perspective? What is Paul's final conclusion in Romans 7? How does he deal with this struggle? (See v. 25)
4. Have you accepted the facts that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God and that His death paid for your sin? If you speak your trust in Him and believe that God has raised Him from the dead, now you can trust that He can also resurrect your relationships.

Endnotes - Chapter 7 The Creator Redeems

- 1 Let me apologize for the number of endnotes for this chapter, which deals with the most important event in the history of the world. It was necessary to give adequate reference to all the thoughts contained in this explanation. If you already believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus, much of this may be elementary, but for those to whom this

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- faith is new, please understand that I include all these references to help you understand the gift which God has made available to you.
- 2 Luke 24:27 See also Luke 24:46 and 1 Peter 1:20.
- 3 “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.” The writer of Hebrews explains the previous need for animal sacrifices and the fulfillment of them in Christ, which eliminated the need for any other sacrifice.
- 4 Hebrews 10:10, parenthesis mine.
- 5 Genesis 3:15
- 6 Romans 5:12
- 7 Matthew 1:18-22; Luke 1:32, 35
- 8 Philippians 2:5-7
- 9 John 1:3
- 10 Colossians 1:16
- 11 Hebrews 1:2
- 12 John 1:14
- 13 1 John 4:9
- 14 The underlying presupposition of logic is creation. A reality determined by chance has no basis for consistency, which is the foundation for logic, mathematics and science. This idea is well explained in “The Ultimate Proof of Creation” by Jason Lisle (Master Books, 2009) and “Always Ready” by Greg Bahnsen (Covenant Media Press, 1996).
- 15 1 John 4:2-3
- 16 Two excellent but very different books written about the evidence for Jesus being the Son of God are “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel (Zondervan, 2007) and “Evidence that Demands a Verdict” by Josh McDowell (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999). Both these men began their research as a tool to justify their unbelief, and came to the same conclusion, that Jesus is who He says He is.
- 17 Acts 2:37
- 18 Acts 2:38
- 19 Joel 2:28-29, referenced by Peter in Acts 2:17-18
- 20 Luke 11: 13, Acts 1:4-8
- 21 Romans 7:18. The entire 7th chapter of Romans deals with sin and its influence over men.
- 22 Hebrews 11:6
- 23 Romans 5:19
- 24 Romans 6:14
- 25 John 1:1-2, 14
- 26 Proverbs 18:21
- 27 Romans 8:32
- 28 John 1:12; Galatians 3:26

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- 29 Hebrews 4:16; Hebrews 10:19
- 30 John 14:6
- 31 John 20:31 See also John 1:34, 11:27, Matthew 27:54 and Acts 8:37 for examples of others confessing Jesus.
- 32 Romans 3:10-12; 1 John 1:8-10
- 33 Romans 8:3-4; Hebrews 9:12-15; 1 John 1:7
- 34 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 See also Acts 17:31 and Romans 10:9.
- 35 Colossians 2:6-7 See also Romans 12:1-3; Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 John 4:10-11.
- 36 Matthew 5:17
- 37 Colossians 2:13-14
- 38 Revelation 5:8-14
- 39 Luke 4:5-6
- 40 Genesis 3:4-5
- 41 Genesis 3:14-15
- 42 John 12:31
- 43 John 14:30
- 44 John 16:11 "...of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."
- 45 Matthew 28:18
- 46 Revelation 1:5-6
- 47 If John supposed the world could not hold all the books that could be written about all that Jesus did (John 21:25), I will make no claims to cover all the benefits of His life in us.
- 48 1 Peter 1:18-19 ...you were...redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ... See also Acts 20:28, Ephesians 1:7.
- 49 Galatians 3:13; Revelation 22:3
- 50 1 John 1:7
- 51 Hebrews 10:19-22
- 52 1 John 3:8
- 53 John 16:33
- 54 Colossians 2:15
- 55 Revelation 11:15; Revelation 12:10
- 56 John 1:12; Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:5-7; Hebrews 12:5-11, especially verse 10.
- 57 Revelation 5:10
- 58 2 Corinthians 5:20
- 59 Hebrews 10:19; Ephesians 3:12
- 60 John 20:21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." See also the commission to reach others in Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16, 15-18, Luke 24:47-48.