

Introduction to the Plan of Redemption

Before class please read and meditate on Ephesians 1-3. In this first class, we will lay the foundation for our study for the segment. We will define and discuss the phrase: “plan of redemption.” We will look at the

different parts of the “plan of redemption” we will cover in this class. And we will discuss the importance of studying the “plan of redemption.”

Defining the terms

- 1) Define plan:
- 2) Define redemption: (Eph 1:7; Col 1:14)
- 3) What is the “plan of redemption”?
- 4) Did you see the phrase “plan of redemption” anywhere in the text?

The Importance of the Plan of Redemption

- 5) In your opinion, how important is the “plan of redemption” to the overall theme of the Bible?
- 6) When was the “plan of redemption” designed? (Eph 1:3-6, 3:8-11)
- 7) Has the “plan of redemption” been completed? Why or why not?
- 8) List some of the parts in the “plan of redemption”: (Use Eph 2, 3:7-13)
- 9) Write down your personal goals for studying the “plan of redemption”?

Class Schedule

Lesson 1: Introduction

Lesson 2: "Seeing the Big Picture" Presentation

Lesson 3: "Seeing the Big Picture" Presentation

Lesson 4: The Gospel of Christ

Lesson 5: Natures of God and Man

Lesson 6: Plan of Redemption in the OT

Lesson 7: Sin and Justice

Lesson 8: Sin and Justice

Lesson 9: Mercy

Lesson 10: Faith in the Plan of Redemption

Lesson 11: Plan of Redemption in the NT: Lamb of God

Lesson 12: Plan of Redemption in the NT: The Believer's Death

Lesson 13: Jesus and the Great Commission

What is good news? It is a message that makes us joyous because it either informs us of some wonderful event, or it provides us with information beneficial to us. The gospel or “good news” of Jesus Christ does both. The greatest book ever produced, The Bible, centers around the gospel of Jesus. The Bible presents one cohesive theme from cover to cover – the plan of redemption which is the story of the gospel of Christ.

Consider the value we often place on a person’s last words.

When Christ presented His last words to his disciples he was about to return to heaven. Nothing trivial here. In Christ’s last words He issues a direct command to His followers, “*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature...*” The gospel that Christ refers to must be very important.

In this lesson we will examine the importance of the gospel of Christ.

Eternal Salvation

- 1) How long has God been planning this plan of redemption? (Eph. 3:10-11)
- 2) According to Paul, how does God use the gospel?
- 3) Does God use the gospel differently for different people?
- 4) Paul was not ashamed of the gospel. Why was the gospel important to Paul? (Romans 1:16)
- 5) According to Romans 1:16 God’s power to save was (check one):
 - the Holy Spirit
 - prayer
 - the apostles
 - the gospel
- 6) When Jesus returns, how important will the gospel be? (2 Thessalonians. 1:7,8)

Knowing the Gospel (Galatians 1:6-9)

- 7) What amazed Paul about the Galatians?
- 8) How many true gospels exist?
- 9) Are there many people teaching different gospels?
- 10) What did Paul pronounce for those, human or angel, who preached a different gospel?
- 11) True or False. Paul could have taught a different gospel himself.
- 12) What characteristics do apostles and angels have that would make people want to believe them, even if they were teaching a different gospel?
- 13) Why such a serious penalty?
- 14) In Galatians 1 who is responsible for knowing the true gospel? (check one)
 - the apostles
 - gospel preachers
 - teachers
 - every individual Christian
- 15) With so many teachings how might we have assurance that we know the true gospel?
- 16) Where do the following passages, Galatians 3:24 and Romans 15:4, suggest we might start in our search to understand the gospel?

Plan of Redemption in History

It is helpful to understand that the plan of redemption was not developed in a vacuum. God used individuals and nations to bring about His great plan. The Old Testament is not a world history book in general, but instead describes events in history pertinent to the development of the SOR. The following material will present an overview of that history so that Scriptures, events and people referred to in future lessons can be placed in their appropriate historical setting.

Creation and the Fall of Man (Genesis 1-3)

Flood (Genesis 6-9)

Abraham, The Father of the Jews (Genesis 12:1-13; 22:18)

The Nation of Israel (Genesis 47:11-12; Exodus 12; 20; Joshua 21:43-45; 2 Samuel 7; 2 Chronicles 36:22-23)

Time of Christ (Daniel 2:44)

The origin of sin is a subject that baffles all investigation. Sin's entrance into the world, and practice of the whole human race, its nature, forms, and effects, and its fatal possession of every unregenerate soul, placed man in a state of absolute condemnation.

As contrary to the nature, worship, love, and service to God, sin is called ungodliness; as a violation of the law of God and of the claims of man, it is a transgression or trespass. Its entrance into the events of mankind is the basis for the plan of redemption.

What is sin?

- 1) How does the Bible define sin? (1 John 3:4)
- 2) To say that sin is lawlessness implies that there must be: (check one)
 - a sheriff
 - law
 - bad guys
 - liberty
- 3) Who determines what sin is and is not?
- 4) Might we do something that seems good yet actually sin?
- 5) Can you do something that is right, in and of itself, and still sin? (Romans 14:23)
- 6) How can you sin by doing nothing? (James 4:17)
- 7) How many of us have sinned? (Romans 3:23)

The consequences of sin

- 8) List some of the good and bad consequences of sin that might occur on earth:
- 9) Who is pleased when we sin? Who is the father of sin? (Ephesians 2:2)
- 10) Who is responsible for my sins? (Ezekiel 18:4)
- 11) Can I be held responsible for the sins of my ancestors? (Ezekiel 18:20)
- 12) How does God react to our sins? (Isaiah 59:2) Why? (Habakkuk 1:13)
- 13) What does sin cost us? (Romans 6:23)

A Just Penalty / A Just God

- 14) Explain the difference between consequence and penalty:
- 15) Define the word 'justice'.
- 16) What does God require as payment for sin? (Leviticus 17:11)
- 17) What penalty did God pronounce upon Adam and Eve if they sinned? (Genesis 2:16-17) When?
- 18) Is this also a New Testament principle? (Hebrews 9:22) What is absolutely positively required for sins to be forgiven? (check one)
 - prayer
 - confession
 - repentance
 - blood
- 19) Who deserves the death penalty for my sins?
- 20) If God is a just God what does this mean he must do when man sins?
- 21) What is the difference between spiritual death and physical death?



The penalty of sin is physical death. Numerous Old Testament examples and even some New Testament examples demonstrate that God will enforce his penalty. By means of a terrible penalty God

wants us to understand how terrible sin is. However God loves His creation. Today we learn how He demonstrated His love while maintaining His justice in this wonderful Plan of Redemption.

Blood – its representative power

- 1) What were the people in the OT told not to do with blood? (Gen 9:4, Leviticus 17: 10) Why?
- 2) What does the statement “*the life of the flesh is in the blood*” mean? (Leviticus 17:14)
- 3) Define “atonement.”
- 4) What did the blood (life) atone for? (Leviticus 1:4, 17:11)
- 5) The death that the animal died represented whose death? (Leviticus 17:11)
- 6) What would the phrase “substitutionary death” mean?
- 7) Define “sacrifice”?
- 8) What would the term substitutionary sacrifice mean?

Animal Sacrifice – how it worked

- 9) List some requirements for an animal to be a proper sacrifice:



	Leviticus 1:3
	Leviticus 22:21
	Leviticus 22:22
	Leviticus 22:23
	Leviticus 22:24
	Leviticus 22:25
	Leviticus 22:27

- 10) What is the main characteristic of the sacrificial animal?
- 11) What had to happen to the animal in order for its sacrifice to be effective?

Animal Sacrifice – what were its shortcomings?

- 12) What was deficient with animal sacrifice? Why couldn't it just continue? (Heb 10:1-4; Heb 9:9-14)
- 13) Why was an animal sinless? What effect would this have on its power as a sin substitute?

Blood – the basis of mercy

- 14) What is absolutely positively unequivocally required to have sins forgiven? (Heb 9:22) Why?
- 15) Define “mercy.”
- 16) How does substitutionary sacrifice demonstrate God's mercy? Did we deserve God's mercy?
- 17) How does substitutionary sacrifice demonstrate God's justice? Did we deserve God's justice?

We have looked at God's mercy as demonstrated in animal sacrifice. We now need to look at what really makes substitutionary death work in the plan of redemption and the life of a believer – faith.

The Role of Faith

- 1) How important is faith in our relationship to God? (Hebrews 11:6)
- 2) According to Romans 10:17 how does one receive faith? (check one)
 - by prayer
 - by miraculous infusion
 - by hearing
 - by witnessing the miraculous
- 3) When something is said to be done “by faith” what would that mean according to Romans 10:17?
- 4) According to Hebrews 11:4 what was the difference between Cain and Abel's sacrifices?
- 5) Fill in the blanks below – from Hebrews 11.



By faith Abel _____ to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.
By faith Noah _____ an ark.
By faith Abraham _____ when he was called.
By faith Abraham _____ in the land of promise.
By faith Sarah _____ a child.
By faith Abraham, when he was tested, _____ up Isaac.
By faith Isaac _____ Jacob and Esau.
By faith the Israelites _____ through the Red Sea.
By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were _____ for seven days.

- 6) What is the key component of faith indicated in these passages?
- 7) What had to happen to the animal for it to be an effective substitute? (Lev 17:11)
- 8) Would it be enough to just believe in the atoning power of animal sacrifice? (Heb 9:22)
- 9) Why wouldn't belief alone be good enough? (James 2:19-20) How does James answer this argument?
- 10) When confronted what two things do the demons statements about Christ indicate? (Luke 4:33-34)
- 11) What does James 2:20 and 2:26 tell us about faith?
- 12) Under the Old Testament did the killing of an animal in and of itself please God or provide for the forgiveness of sins? Explain your answer.
- 13) According to Paul, why was the Jews' zeal worthless? (Romans 10:1-2)

Read the story of Naaman in 2 Kings chapter 5:1-14 and answer the following questions:

- 14) How did Naaman expect to be healed? (V11,12)
- 15) What healed Naaman?
- 16) Would Naaman have been healed if he had not believed God's promise?
- 17) To what extent was Naaman's healing a gift as opposed to something he deserved or earned?
- 18) What role did the water play?

19) What is at least one reason God requires obedience as an element of faith? (Genesis 22:12; Exodus 16:4; Deuteronomy 8:2; Deuteronomy 13:3)

20) Which of the following seems to best define saving faith: (check one)

- a leap in the dark mental agreement action based on conviction emotional fervor

21) Define “propitiation”.

22) What must we have faith in now in order for Christ’s death to be a “propitiatory sacrifice?” (Rom 3:24-25)

23) Define the word “synecdoche”.

24) You open an envelope and a powder comes out. You fear that you may have inhaled terrorist anthrax. Would you go to the doctor? Why? He tells you to take 2 CIPRO a day? Would you take it? Why? In what sense would your response demonstrate faith?



25) According to a quote from Isaiah in Romans 10:16 why had “not all obeyed the gospel (NKJV)?”

Plan of Redemption in the NT:

The Lamb of God

God worked over the course of thousands of years to prepare man for the coming of His Son. To this point we have looked at how God used the sacrificial system of the Old Testament to allow both his justice and mercy to be satisfied. However we also pointed out that the substitutionary death of an animal is insufficient for any permanent solution for sin. These sacrifices foreshadowed something greater, something perfect. God used these as a teacher (Gal. 3:24) to insure that before His son arrived that mankind understood the things he needed to know "to lead us to Christ." We

now come that moment that all of history had been building and pointing to. God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for his Son. John preached to great multitudes, proclaiming the imminence of the kingdom of God and the need for repentance. On one occasion as John preached, off in the distance he saw Jesus approaching. Seizing the moment he made the announcement that resonates throughout all of history, "**Behold the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.**"

John's Proclamation

- 1) List some titles or names of Jesus that come first to mind:
- 2) In announcing Jesus as the Lamb of God what was John communicating to the Jewish mind? (John 1:29)
- 3) What would this say about Jesus purpose in coming to earth? (1 Timothy 1:15)

Jesus – The Lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice

- 4) What characteristics did Jesus share with a Lamb? (1 Peter 1:18,19)
- 5) What qualified Christ to be a substitutionary sacrifice? (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- 6) Read Isaiah 53:1-12. See how many of these prophecies you can see fulfilled in the death of Christ. What do you think is the significance of this writing?
- 7) How was Jesus to "take away the sins of the world?" (1 Peter 2:24)?

The Death of Christ

- 8) How did Christ view His blood? (Matthew 26:28)
- 9) Christ here called his blood the blood of the New Covenant. Explain. (Hebrews 9:18-26)
- 10) Christ appeared to put away sin on the basis of what sacrifice? (Hebrews 9:26)
- 11) What actually happened to Jesus on the cross before he died? (1 Peter 2:24)
- 12) How does God demonstrate His love for us? (Romans 5:6-9)
- 13) Read Romans 3:25-26. How does Christ's death make God "just" and "the justifier" of those who have faith in Jesus?
- 14) What was Christ experiencing when He made the statement on the cross, "*My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?*"
- 15) What does 2 Corinthians 5:22 tell us happened to Christ?
- 16) Matthew 20:28 says that Christ gave "His life as a ransom for many." What would this mean?
- 17) Explain the statement "Christ died for your sins." (1 Corinthians 15:3, 1 Peter 2:24)

Lesson
12

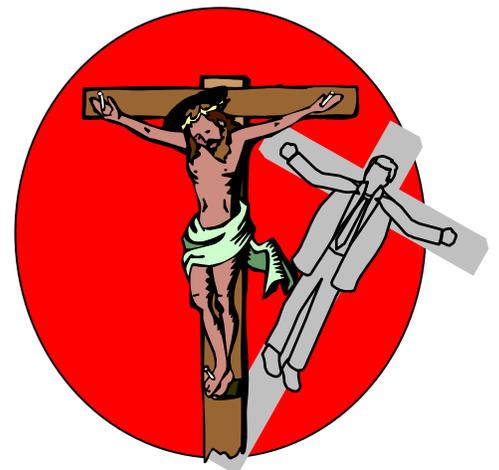
Plan of Redemption in the NT: The Believer's Death

We have looked at the key elements of the plan of redemption, particularly blood atonement through substitutionary death. The New Testament clearly teaches what the Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed: that we must die to sin through our substitute Jesus Christ. Christ came to die in our place. Christ came to die to pay

the penalty of death that we owed, to pay the ransom price, to redeem us from sin. In this manner Christ's death, in a very real and literal way, represents the death of the believer. Let's now look at how this "death of the believer" is represented in the New Testament.

WHO died?

- 1) Read 2 Timothy 2:11. Who does the "we" refer to?
- 2) If we died with Christ what results?
- 3) What is the significance to the plan of redemption to represent the believer as one who has died?
- 4) Read 1 Peter 2:24. Who does the "our" and "we" refer to?
- 5) Christ bore our sins in His body on the cross so that what would happen to us?
- 6) Read Colossians 3:3. Who does the "you" refer to?
- 7) What results from the believer's death described here?
- 8) Read Galatians 2:20. Why would the believer's death be described as being "crucified with Christ."
- 9) Who "lives in" the Christian as a result?
- 10) Read Romans 6:6. When our old self was crucified with Christ what was done away with?
- 11) How does Hebrews 9:22 relate to the believer's death?
- 12) If the payment for your sins is your death then what *must* happen in order for your sins to be forgiven? (check one)
 - you must die through Christ
 - someone must pray for you
 - you must do enough good works to pay for sin
 - you must pray the sinners prayer
- 13) What does the believer get from Christ's death? (check one)
 - His death
 - His imputed sinlessness
 - Christ's good works
 - Christ goes to hell instead of me
- 14) In order to have my sins forgiven and be put into Christ which of the following must happen? (check all that apply)
 - I must die to sin
 - I must die with Christ
 - I must be buried with Christ
 - I must be united with Christ in the likeness of His death
 - I must be crucified with Christ
 - My body of sin must be done away with
 - I must die to be freed from sin
 - I must be obedient from my heart



The Response to the Gospel: Jesus and the Great Commission

We have looked extensively at the gospel as represented by the plan of redemption – the theme of the Bible. We deserve to die for our sins. God provided his son. The New Testament clearly teaches what the Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed: that we must die to sin through our substitute Jesus Christ – that all Christians have died to sin through their substitute Jesus Christ. The crucial question we explored in our last lesson was “When?” When does God view the believer as dying to sin? When or how do we die with Christ? Would God leave us without an answer to this crucial question? The answer is a resounding “no.” We discovered the clear answer to this in Romans 6. We understand that we die to sin when we are united with

Christ in His death and that when we are baptized into Christ we are baptized into His death. Based on this understanding we will now examine what Jesus Himself commanded and what the apostles commanded and practiced as a result. In this manner we begin to see clearly that baptism for remission of sins is an integral part of the gospel – not the gospel itself. But clearly after examining what Jesus taught and the apostles taught no one could teach the gospel without including the response that directs one who has believed the gospel how to accept God’s wonderful gift. What we see Jesus commanding in the great commission we see his followers executing in the book of Acts. The actual examples of what the followers of Christ taught are quite powerful.

Jesus Gives the Great Commission - (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19-20) To whom were they to preach this?

- 1) Jesus commanded his followers to “go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Who did He say would be saved?
- 2) Why is only “belief” mentioned as a condition of condemnation?
- 3) Explain how the great commission of Christ explains and validates the plan of redemption?



The Apostles’ Execute the Great Commission

- 1) How did Peter answer the first audience to the gospel when they asked what they were to do in response to the gospel? (Acts 2:37-38)
- 2) How can you tell that the people who asked the question “What must we do?” had become believers?
- 3) Compare Jesus’ statement about the shedding of his blood (Matthew 26:28) and Peter’s statement about the purpose of baptism (Acts 2:38). What conclusions can we draw? How does this fit with the SOR?
- 4) What did Philip preach to the Samaritans? Based on the response of the Samaritans what would “preaching the gospel” have to have included? (Acts 8:12)
- 5) What OT passage was the Ethiopian Eunuch reading when Philip met him? (Acts 8:30-33)
- 6) List some statements from this OT passage that coincide perfectly with the idea of substitutionary sacrifice.
- 7) What did Philip preach to the Eunuch?
- 8) Judging from the Eunuch’s response what must have “preaching Jesus” contained? (Acts 8:35-36)
- 9) Why did Philip and the Eunuch both “go down into the water?”
- 10) What does the word “baptize” literally mean in the original Greek language?
- 11) When Paul was on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-8) and was confronted by Jesus: Did Paul *believe* that it was Jesus? Did Paul *confess* the Lord’s name? Did Paul *obey* what he was instructed to do? Did Paul *fast* for three days? Did Paul *pray* for three days?
- 12) At what point were Paul’s sins removed? (Acts 9:8-9)