

SRM14061 6/01/2014

#### #4 "Pass It On: Redemption"

Attention: Joseph Damien was a nineteenth-century missionary who ministered to people with leprosy on the island of Molokai, Hawaii. Those suffering grew to love him and revered the sacrificial life he lived out before them.

One morning before Damien was to lead daily worship, he was pouring some hot water into a cup when the water swirled out and fell onto his bare foot. It took him a moment to realize that he had not felt any sensation. Gripped by the sudden fear of what this could mean, he poured more hot water on the same spot. No feeling whatsoever.

Damien immediately knew what had happened. As he walked tearfully to deliver his sermon, no one at first noticed the difference in his opening line. He normally began every sermon with, "My fellow believers." But this morning he began with, "My fellow lepers."

In a greater measure Jesus came into this world knowing what it would cost him. He bore in his pure being the marks of evil, that we might be made pure. "For this I came into the world," he said (John 18:37). [Topic: Christ, Subtopic: Humanity of, Index: 719-723]

Of all the teachings of the Bible, there is one that, above all others, conquers doubt, guilt, fear and discouragement, and instills Faith, hope and Love in the hearts of men and women of all kinds.

In our series, "Pass It On", we are considering six basic elements of our Christian worldview to "Pass on" to children and others. We started with the Bible's Sufficiency, Clarity, Authority and Necessity.

Then, God's Creation of the world and everything in it, including human beings, in His image, which should lead us to worship and serve Him above all else.

Last week, what the Bible says about Sin, Death, humanity's fall, and regeneration.

This morning, consider What God by Jesus Christ Did to redeem people lost in sin: Redemption.

It is the teaching that is before us today, in the center of our church's statement about Christ, it says, "We believe in Jesus Christ's substitutionary atoning death, [and] bodily resurrection...".

The Apostles' Creed says, "I believe ... in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven ..." and because of this, "I believe in ... the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. AMEN?

Redemption is the crowning truth of all God's revelation to us.

ILL: Dorothy L. Sayers in *The Man Born to Be King*: "God was executed by people painfully like us, in a society very similar to our own ... by a corrupt church, a timid politician, and a fickle proletariat led by professional agitators." [Topic: Christ, Subtopic: Suffered and Died, Index: 3367]

This morning we will consider 3 things the Bible says we should pass on about Jesus' death and resurrection: Jesus' death was an atoning death, Jesus' death was also a substitutionary death, and Jesus' resurrection, gave eternal life to all who trust in Him for it.

1. Pass it on that Jesus' death was an atoning death.

A. Some people think that the perfect life of Christ is enough. Why was it necessary for Christ to die?

It was necessary because God had pronounced the death sentence for sin.

Gen 2:17 (NKJV) "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

When our first parents sinned, they died spiritually that day, and they began to die physically.

By the atonement sinners are reconciled to God.

Atonement is "at-one-ment". Adam was one w/ God. Sin broke this up. The atonement restores it.

It was necessary because it would be contrary to God's nature for Him to pardon sin without an accounting.

This is true because God's Word means something! (Parents take note!)

It is necessary because the only moral absolutes are found in the nature of God.

There are "unforgivables" in all our lives. In his effort to get rid of guilt, man has tried to rationalize it away, but we all know deep down that there are things that have been done to us or by us that are "unforgivable"; for which someone must answer, someone must suffer.

B. How was the atonement accomplished?  
- By the sacrifice of Christ's life; the blood of Christ.

1. In the OT, blood was recognized as the life principle: Lev 17:11 (HCSB) "For the life of a

creature is in the blood, and I have appointed it to you to make atonement on the altar for your lives, since it is the lifeblood that makes atonement.”

2. In the New Testament, Christ is the one whose blood is shed. The Lord's Supper points to it. Matthew 26:28 (NKJV) For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

It was not only physical death that he suffered; Spiritual death was necessary:

Mat 27:46 (NKJV) “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

In a short period of time, He bore the infinite wrath of God against sin, and came out victoriously.

Christ has suffered for sin, shedding His blood.

ILL. This is why blood is mentioned over 300 times in the Bible and is essential to the doctrine of Christ's atonement. It lies at the very heart of the Gospel.

Some years ago a terrible railroad accident occurred, killing many people. A commuter train had stalled on the tracks just a few minutes before a fast freight was due to arrive. A conductor was quickly sent to flag down the approaching train. Being assured that all was well, the

passengers relaxed. Suddenly, however, the speeding freight came bearing down upon them. The crash left a horrible scene of tragedy. The engineer of the second train, who escaped death by jumping from the cab, was called into court to explain why he hadn't stopped. "I saw a man waving a warning flag," he said, "but it was yellow, so I thought he just wanted me to slow down." When the flag was examined, the mystery was explained. It had been red, but because of long exposure to the sun and weather it had become a dirty yellow.

Dr. Harry Ironside commented on this incident: "O the lives eternally wrecked by the 'yellow gospels' we are hearing today -- the bloodless theories of unregenerated men that send their hearers to their doom instead of stopping them on their downward road!"

"My friend", he would say, "only Christ and His sacrifice on the cross can redeem your soul. Don't be deceived by an anemic "yellow gospel" of works that is powerless to save you from everlasting destruction. [TOPIC: Christ INDEX: 679 SUBTOPIC: Blood of TITLE: The Yellow Gospel]

This “yellow gospel” also fails to satisfy our inner sense of justice. Only Christ’s blood can do that. Trans: Pass it on that Jesus’ death was an atoning death. Then ...

2. Pass it on that Jesus’ death was also a substitutionary death.

A. What caused God to send Christ to make this atonement?

It was purely the good pleasure of the sovereign God: Isa 53:10 (ESV) "Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand."

It is the result of God's love, Holiness & Justice.

B. Just what was accomplished in the death of Christ?

1. Satisfaction of God's anger over sin.

His death was a "propitiation" and an "expiation": 1 John 4:10 (NKJV) "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."

2. The atonement is also a substitutionary or vicarious atonement. Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV) For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

This means Christ is our representative, our "vicar" or substitute.

The atonement is therefore a judicial or legal act. It is also the supreme act of God's Grace.

The atonement is the answer to the "unforgivables" in our lives.

- For those things we have done that deserve our suffering, Christ has suffered for us, so we can feel justly forgiven. "He was bruised for our transgressions."

ILL: Jeffrey Ebert: When I was 5 years old, before factory-installed seat belts and automobile air bags, my family was driving home at night on a two-lane country road. I was sitting on my mother's lap when another car, driven by a drunk driver, swerved into our lane and hit us head-on. I don't have any memory of the collision. I do recall the fear and confusion I felt as I saw myself literally covered with blood from head to toe.

Then I learned that the blood wasn't mine at all, but my mother's. In that split second when the two head-lights glared into her eyes, she instinctively pulled me closer to her chest and curled her body around mine. It was her body that slammed against the dashboard, her head that shattered the windshield. She took the impact of the collision so that I wouldn't have to. It took extensive surgery for my mother to recover from her injuries.

In a similar, but infinitely more significant way, Jesus Christ took the impact for the sins of those that trust in Him, and his blood now permanently covers their lives.

Trans: Pass it on that Jesus' death was an atoning death, Pass it on that Jesus' death was also a substitutionary death, then

3. Pass it on that Jesus' resurrection, gives eternal life to all who trust in Him for it.

A. What does the Bible say about it?

It says Christ's physical body was restored and raised from death on the third day in which he had been dead:

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 (NKJV) "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve."

Luke 24:39 (NKJV) "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

He is the first person to be raised with a Spiritual body: 1 Corinthians 15:44-45 (NKJV) "It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit."

B. What is so important about it?

1. It is a statement from God that His justice is satisfied in Christ's death.

2. It declared and guaranteed our own resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:20 (ESV) "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

3. It became the basis of our justification, regeneration and resurrection.

Without it, none of us could be forgiven.

III. Max Lucado in "Love for the Least," says, "It is unfortunate that most of us see ourselves as a composite of all our failures. When we look in the mirror we may only see a divorced person, or someone who lost his job, or an overweight loner. Even though many of us can't see beyond the failures, this is not the way God views us. As a loving Father, he looks past our failures. Can you imagine a loving father introducing his children by saying, "This is my daughter, Meagan, who stained the carpet with grape juice when she was two"? Or, "This is my son, Myles, who broke a valuable vase last week." If loving fathers don't have a need to memorize their children's failures, you can rest assured our loving Heavenly Father has no use for such

memories either. When we accept God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ, he forgets our failures.”

Conc: Pass it on that Jesus' death was an atoning death, that Jesus' death was also a substitutionary death, and that Jesus' resurrection, gives eternal life to all who trust in Him for it.

Taken together, the death and resurrection of Christ is the pinnacle of the Christian's whole system of teachings.

The whole Bible testifies to its truth: The creation and fall set the scene for its need, the nature of God and the incarnation of Christ open the possibility, and the rest of the doctrines flow down from the atonement.

The atonement is the accomplishment of the greatest impossibility in the universe.

That God is willing to do this, indicates His willingness to attend to all our lesser needs. Do you believe it?

It answers the “unforgivables”.

The atonement satisfies justice, and the resurrection assures us that forgiveness has been granted.

It says, “It's okay, you can forgive yourself.”

It says, “You can forgive the wrongs done against you because there is justice in the universe, and a God who assures you of it.”

Throughout our Affirmation of Faith, and the Apostles' Creed there are two Words that ring like the tolling of a great bell: "We/I believe!"

Some of you are feeling defeated today for one reason or another. Some are discouraged over personal losses. But God's plan and promises are secure and unshakable.

Believe you are forgiven! Believe it is OK to forgive!

Believe God uses difficulties to show His power through us, and a problem is a chance for you to show others what God can do.

When there are challenges, set your sights on doing more, not less!

We serve a Lord who was victorious over Sin and Death, and who calls His servants conquerors and overcomers.

- Do we dare to be less than this?

Action: Do you believe that Jesus, the blameless Son of God died to atone for the sins and moral failures of people like you and me? Pass it on.

Do you believe that Jesus died to be a substitute for sinners who had no other hope? Pass it on.

Do you believe that when Jesus rose from the dead He gave a new, eternal life to all who put their complete and only faith in Him? Pass it on!