

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW

Part Three

We have learned A LOT in the first two lessons of this series. To summarize- every single person born is imputed with the sin of Adam, the first person created. God is completely fair in doing this because He is perfect, never does anything wrong, and knows everything- like how we all would have sinned in the Garden, just like Adam did. God made a way to save us, though. Jesus Christ, who is God the Son, became a man, remained sinless, and then willingly bore the judgement for the sins of His children on the cross. He then was resurrected so we would live forever with Him. When we repent and believe in the person and work of Jesus Christ, we are born again. With this spiritual birth we were redeemed, freed from our debt to God and slavery to sin, as well as justified, set free from the guilt of sin and imputed with righteousness.

All of us, from the moment we are born, have a very big problem. See, the Creator God, the most powerful being who knows everything and can do anything, considers us His enemy. You heard correctly. Every single person is born a sinner, an enemy of God.

Romans 5:10 “For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”



The verse above introduces our next big word, reconciliation. Reconciliation is defined as “*the restoration of friendly relations*”. Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship with God before they disobeyed His command. Their sin broke this relationship, making them, and every person ever born, God’s enemy. The Salvation Plan through Jesus Christ allows us to be reconciled or “friends again” with God. We discussed how He knows everything, can do everything, is completely fair, and downright perfect. Sounds like He is the best friend we could ever have, huh?

Have you ever had an argument with someone and stopped talking to them for a bit? You may have even treated each other like enemies for a while. What did it take for you to be reconciled? Most likely, there was an apology and then forgiveness! Salvation would not be possible without God’s forgiveness.

In our first lesson, we learned that the life blood of a sacrifice to God is required for forgiveness. In Old Testament times, they made daily animal sacrifices for their sin. See, the blood of animals could only temporarily pay for sins. God hates sin and all people

who are born into sin are under His judgement and wrath. Do you know what wrath means? It is a pretty scary word meaning “*extreme anger and punishment for a crime*”

John 3:36 “*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.*”

So, how do people escape the wrath of God? The answer to this question is our last two big words. First, there is propitiation which means to “*gain favor, appease by paying for a wrong*”. In order for sinners to be forgiven, God’s justice had to be satisfied, the price for their sin paid. This was accomplished by our last big word, expiation, which is “*the act of making amends or paying for a wrongdoing*”. So, the Lord Jesus Christ propitiated the wrath of God by the expiation of His death on the cross for our sins. In other words, the work of Jesus Christ on the cross was the acceptable sacrifice (expiation) which satisfied God’s standards (propitiation) and turned His wrath away from His children, so we could have a relationship with Him!

1 John 4:10 “*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*”

Here are terms defined one last time: redemption- payment of the debt owed to God for our sin and for our freedom from slavery, justification- freed from the guilt of imputed sin and imputed with perfect righteousness, reconciliation- made “*friends again*” with God, propitiation- the acceptable payment for our sin, and expiation- the action that paid the price for our sin, Jesus’ work on the cross.

So, what God wants every Christian to know is the amazing things He accomplished on our behalf to save us from the penalty, power, and presence of sin. He wants us to understand how great our salvation is so we will be filled with gratitude and motivated to share this Good News with others. In summary, believers in Jesus Christ are graciously granted redemption from sin, justification in the eyes of God, and reconciliation with God due to the propitiation of the Father, through the expiation from Jesus Christ. That was a mouthful! If you do not understand that paragraph, reread the lessons, read your Bible and pray every day, and be patient as you learn His Word.

We hope that you have a deeper understanding and appreciation for all that God has done on behalf of His children to save them from sin and death. We could never say thank you enough, so we will just keep on saying it every day!

2 Corinthians 9:15 “*Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!*”