

HEARTBEAT BIBLE STUDY LESSON THREE A



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HEARTBEAT BIBLE STUDY
 Lesson Three A Version 3.2
 GOD'S SON—JESUS CHRIST
 Student's Outline
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The Redeemer's Qualifications

He is Our Sinless God.

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, "I am _____ way, and _____ truth, and _____ life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Philippians 2:6-8

Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Luke 19:10 (ESV)

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the _____."

Jesus claims to be God. John 6:61-62; 17:5; 8:58; 10:24-30.

The Trinity: A fellowship of perfection.

Genesis 1:26a (ESV)

Then God said, "Let _____ make man in _____ image, after _____ likeness.

Jesus is Sinless.

1 Peter 3:18 (ESV)

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

The Redeemer's Payment of Redemption: Christ's Death

2 Timothy 1:9 (NASB-U)

who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Acts 2:23 (NASB-U) this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

Romans 5:8 (NASB-U)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:10 (ESV)

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.

The Payment

The word propitiation means _____.

Mark 15:34 (ESV)

"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Christ died _____.

Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

1 Corinthians 15:3 (ESV)

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

2. Christ came _____ _____ _____ spiritually.

Luke 23:46 (ESV)

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

3. Christ died _____.

4. Christ came _____ _____ _____ physically.

Paid in full by a substitute

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 (ESV)

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died _____ so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

Some people at this point who remember our definition of spiritual death might say that this separation didn't last forever. Good point. Yet, what did we say about the quality of intimacy experienced by God the Father and God the Son? We said that it was an infinite degree of intimacy and love. If something that was infinite is destroyed for even a minute, the damage would be infinite. Time is not the factor at this point, since the quality of the destruction is measured rather than the amount of time spent suffering.

While you are looking at the picture of the broken fellowship between the Father and the Son, and the flow of God's white hot anger against sin, imagine some of that anger inside that flow being for *your* sins.

The second event in the sequence was that Christ came **back to life** spiritually. Shortly after God's anger had been completely exhausted, the fellowship was restored once again. We know that by the following verse.

Luke 23:46 (ESV)

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

The third event in this sequence was that Christ died **physically**, and we can see that also in the preceding verse.

The fourth event in this sequence was that Christ came **back to life** physically three days later when he rose from the dead. We see in this sequence that Christ not only suffered both deaths for us, he also conquered both deaths and since he rose physically from the dead, his risen life gives us solid hope that we too can have eternal life.

Paid in full by a substitute

The full wrath of God against our sin was completely poured out upon the Son who was innocent of any sin, yet in God's system of justice, this was okay. God was willing to accept a substitute offering and sacrifice in place of our having to pay for our own sin. There was no obligation on God's part to do this. He didn't have to extend mercy to us or pay for our sins himself. His own mercy and love compelled him to do so. This is truly amazing and worth contemplating, because once we begin to fathom the greatness of his love, the more we will fall in love with this wonderful God who spared no expense to pay for our sins. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 says,

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 (ESV)

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died **for us** so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

This is the end of Part A of Lesson Three. In Part B, we will explore what the Bible says is required in order to have our sins forgiven and receive the gift of eternal life. We will give you a hint about what that is but you will have to read about it in two different stories found in your Bible. The first story is found in Luke 18:18-23, and is about a rich young prince who came to Christ seeking eternal life, and he asked Christ what he must do to receive it. The man left without the gift of eternal life.

The second story is found in the very next chapter, Luke 19:2-9, and is the story of Zaccheus, another rich man who found eternal life. Your assignment between our lessons is to read those two stories and to figure out what the difference is between the two men.

God's child but the comparison is as close as we can humanly get), even if that person were our friend. The Scriptures say however that God was willing to do that for us while we were His enemies (that's what we are as sinners). Romans 5:8 says,

Romans 5:8 (NASB-U)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The reason why God was willing to do that was because of a Divine love that goes infinitely beyond any human love. Here is where we need to start exercising faith to believe, because in our humanness we cannot perceive or comprehend such love. John says in 1 John 4:10,

1 John 4:10 (ESV)

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.

The payment

The word propitiation in the verse above is another word for **payment**. In order for God to be just and fair, he had to make somebody pay the price for our sins. That person was Jesus. Remember we said that the penalty of sin was death, both physical and spiritual. Jesus had to pay both of those in order to make the payment to God for our sins. To illustrate this we are going to draw a picture of Christ on the cross between the two thieves. Then we are going to draw a picture of God in heaven looking down on his Son during the crucifixion. Now we are going to draw two parallel lines from the Father to the Son. Those lines represent the infinite intimate love the Father and Son have enjoyed between each other for all eternity.

We'll get back to that picture in just a moment. Here is the sequence of events that took place on the cross the day Jesus died. First of all, Christ died **spiritually**. Here's how that happened. After Jesus was tortured by the Roman soldiers, he was nailed to the cross to die because the Jewish leaders accused him of blasphemy. While on the cross, right about 3 P.M., Jesus cried out in Aramaic the following words:

Mark 15:34 (ESV)

"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

What do you think the word forsaken means? If you guessed it means to abandon, to leave, or to desert, you would be accurate. In other words, God abandoned the Son. This is the first time Jesus has ever called the Father by this name, God. It is a formal name, one that does not express the intimacy he had always had before. This indicates something drastic has changed in their relationship.

We said earlier that spiritual death is separation from God forever. Here we see Jesus separated from the Father for a short period of time. Now let's get back to our diagram. We will put a jagged line across the parallel lines we drew before, indicating this severance of fellowship that happened at 3 PM that terrible day. At that moment, God the Father in heaven poured out upon his Son all the fury and wrath that had been stored up since the creation of man, and all the fury and wrath for all the sins committed up through today and into the future, so that every sin of every person who calls upon the name of the Lord for forgiveness was paid in full. These Bible verses make it very clear what happened.

Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

1 Corinthians 15:3 (ESV)

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

HEARTBEAT BIBLE STUDY

Lesson Three A

GOD'S SON—JESUS CHRIST

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This is the complete lesson from which the teacher taught.

In Lesson Two we learned all about God's great purpose of bringing glory to Himself by showing infinite mercy to sinful mankind. He did that by raising up a nation that would raise up a Messiah redeemer who would pay for our sins in our place. In this lesson, we will go into more detail about this Redeemer and the redemption payment that he made. We will finish the lesson by looking at what we must do to receive the benefits of his payment and how we can enter into a relationship with Him that will last forever.

The Redeemer's Qualifications

He is Our Sinless God.

There are times in life where it is extremely critical to know if the object of our trust is trustworthy. When we fly, we have already decided that the plane we are flying in and the pilot who controls it are both worthy of our trust, or we wouldn't get on board. The same is true for ocean voyages. Our trust level rises in proportion to the size of the ship. Ocean liners give us more confidence than leaky old rowboats when sailing the high seas.

When it comes to placing our confidence in a savior, we need to be extra diligent to determine if he is trustworthy. Eternity lasts a long time, and it would be disastrous if two seconds after we died we arrived at the wrong destination because we depended on someone or some system that was unreliable. Since there are a lot of saviors to choose from, and a lot of systems that tell us they can get us where we want to go, it is very important that one selects the right one. The Bible says that there is only one way to heaven and that is through Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, "I am **the** way, and **the** truth, and **the** life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Obviously, Jesus was, and is, aware of exactly who He was, and is, in order to make such a bold and audacious claim as the one above. He could make that claim because He was the chosen one. He was God in human flesh. He relocated His residence from heaven's palace to a home in Nazareth, to become God in human flesh. We call that process, the incarnation of Christ. This word comes from the Latin word *incarnatio* and comes from two words put together: *in* meaning in, and *carnis*, meaning flesh. **Read Philipians 2:6-8.**

This passage of Scripture teaches us that Jesus left heaven to come to earth to accomplish a very great task. He knew before he left that he was coming here to die in order to redeem us from our sins.

Luke 19:10 says, (ESV) "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

The word lost in this passage literally means, "those who are destined for destruction." As we shared in Lesson Two, man has rebelled against God and that is true for every man woman and child. That rebellion has a consequence; it is death, a deserving sentence to be served in hell forever. The Messiah's mission was to come and give His life so that we could be rescued from this death sentence. What amazing love.

Jesus claims to be God

Some people do not believe that what Jesus says about Himself is true, namely that He is an equal member of the Godhead. If indeed Jesus is lying about His credentials, this makes Him a very untrustworthy Savior. Let's examine Jesus' claims to divinity by looking at the following passages. **Read John 6:61-62; 17:5; 8:58; 10:24-30.**

Right before the passage in John 6:61-62, Jesus tells the crowd that whoever eats his flesh and drinks his blood, those people will have eternal life. That statement meant that those who fully trusted in his death on the cross for their sins would inherit eternal life, a concept very strange to the Jews who were listening. Obviously the disciples, (in John's context these were semi-interested followers) did not like what they heard because they believed they were already saved, being good Jews. Jesus said to them, if this troubles you, how are you going to respond when you see me having gone to the cross, paying the penalty and then be exalted to the right hand of the Father where I was before? Jesus was obviously saying that Heaven was his previous residence before coming to earth. No human could say that other than the Son of God. The same truth was expressed by Jesus in John 17:5.

In John 8:58, Jesus says that before Abraham was, "I Am." This is clear language on Jesus' part to say that he existed in Abraham's day and before. Abraham lived 2,000 years before Christ. Not many people can say that they are 2,000 years old. Only God can say he existed eternally, which is what Jesus meant when he said "I Am."

In John 10:24-30, Jesus plainly states that He and the Father are one. The Greek word in this passage for 'one' is in the neuter gender meaning Jesus and the Father share the same essence. If the word 'one' were in the masculine gender, the meaning would be that they were the same person. There can be no doubt about the clarity of what Jesus was saying for in verse 33 of chapter 10, the Jews respond to His statement like this:

John 10:33 (ESV)

The Jews answered him, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God."

They certainly understood him to be saying he was the same as God. Jesus is not saying that they were one and the same as if Jesus was the earthly presence of the Father. Some people believe that Jesus and the Father and the Spirit are all different personalities or "faces" of the same person but that is a heresy long ago rejected by the church. The church has agreed to understand that the Bible teaches that there is one God in three persons, and we call that the Trinity. One passage in Genesis unmistakably alludes to the Godhead working together. It is Genesis 1:26.

The Trinity: A fellowship of perfection.

Genesis 1:26a (ESV)

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

The Bible teaches that the Father, Son and the Spirit have each existed eternally (none were created). The Bible teaches also that each share equally in the essence of divinity which makes all three equal in every attribute, especially the attribute of holiness which is our focus in this lesson. That means that the Son of God was holy before he came to earth, remained holy while he was on earth living as a human, and retained his holiness after he suffered for our sins and ascended to heaven. The key aspect of Christ's holiness that concerns us in our study is the fact that he is sinless. Only a perfect sinless sacrifice qualifies as an acceptable substitute payment for our sins, something we as sinners desperately need. The Apostle Peter clearly states this truth in 1 Peter 3:18.

Jesus is Sinless.

1 Peter 3:18 (ESV)

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

This same truth is affirmed by Paul and the writer of Hebrews.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

This brings us now to the subject of Christ's death. This is the payment He made in order to cancel our debt that we owe to God for our rebellion against Him.

The Redeemer's Payment of Redemption: Christ's Death

Christ's death on the cross was no accident of fate. It was a plan made in eternity past long before there was even a hint of sin, of man, or the Garden of Eden. God in his omniscience knew this payment was going to be necessary and so even before he created man, knowing full well that man would rebel, chose to provide a means for man to be reconciled back to him once again through the death of Jesus, the second member of the Trinity. Paul says all this in 2 Timothy 1:9.

2 Tim. 1:9 (NASB-U)

who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

Peter in his sermon to the people in Jerusalem said the same thing when he said...

Acts 2:23 (NASB-U)

this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

Perhaps you are wondering why God would choose to sacrifice something so valuable to him for our benefit. We certainly wouldn't give our child's life for the sake of saving somebody else (not that Jesus is