

Blueprints for Belief

Laying the Theological Foundations for Constructing Your Faith

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5. The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience and sacrifice of Himself, which He through the eternal Spirit once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of His Father; and purchased not only reconciliation, but an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto Him.
 - *“By the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.”* (Romans 5:19)
 - *“Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”* (Ephesians 5:2)
 - *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.”* (Galatians 3:13)
 - *“While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son.”* (Romans 5:10)
 - *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.”* (Ephesians 1:3)
6. Although the work of redemption was not actually wrought by Christ till after His incarnation, yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefits thereof were communicated into the elect, in all ages successively from the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices wherein He was revealed, and signified to be the seed of the woman, which should bruise the serpent’s head, and the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world, being yesterday and today the same and forever.
 - *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”* (Hebrews 13:8)
 - *“...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”* (Revelation 13:8)
 - *“These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar.”* (Hebrews 11:13)
7. Christ, in the work of mediation, acteth according to both natures; by each nature doing that which is proper to itself; yet by reason of the unity of the person, that which is proper to one nature is sometimes, in Scripture, attributed to the person denominated by the other nature.
 - *“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”* (1 Timothy 2:5)
 - *“They crucified the Lord of glory.”* (1 Corinthians 2:8)
 - *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”* (John 1:14)
8. To all those for whom Christ hath purchased redemption, He doth certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same; making intercession for them, and revealing unto them, in and by the Word, the mysteries of salvation; effectually persuading them by His Spirit to believe and obey; and governing their hearts by His Word and Spirit; overcoming all their enemies by His almighty power and wisdom, in such manner and ways as are most consonant to His wonderful and unsearchable dispensation.
 - *“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”* (John 6:37)
 - *“For God... has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”* (2 Corinthians 4:6)
 - *“It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”* (Philippians 2:13)

Objections

“If Christ already obeyed perfectly and paid for sin once for all, then human obedience is unnecessary.”

- Christ’s obedience secures salvation; our obedience flows from it. Our works do not earn salvation, but they do provide evidence that our faith is real.

“It is unjust for God to punish Christ instead of sinners. True justice means each person bears their own penalty.”

- Justice is upheld in union with Christ. He was a willing substitute and covenantal representative. It only works because Jesus was both God and man.

“Old Testament believers were saved by keeping the law, not by Christ.”

- OT saints trusted in the promises of God, which all centered in the coming Messiah. Abraham was saved by faith. The law points us to our need for Christ.

“If Christ truly purchased redemption for people, then everyone should be saved (universalism).”

- His death is sufficient for all but efficient only for the elect. The Spirit ensures that those for whom Christ died actually come to faith.

Discussion Questions

- 1) Where do you find yourself tempted to “add” to Christ’s finished work?
- 2) When you pray, how does it help to know Christ both understands human weakness and rules with divine power?
- 3) How does the certainty that Christ will actually apply redemption to His people affect your assurance of salvation?