

Th224 Sin and Atonement: The Restoration of Relationship

Lesson Th224-30 Atonement: Relationship Restored

That which was lost through Adam and Eve was restored through Jesus Christ.

God created everything, the entire universe, for one purpose; to have children with whom he could have loving relationship. Adam and Eve broke this relationship with God by choosing their own desires over his. They broke the only rule he had given them. Sin became a barrier in the relationship between humanity and God. God's holiness demands that his law must be upheld. The law was very simple. The soul that sins must die, or as the apostle Paul wrote, "The wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23). He also wrote, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23).

All of us sin. All of us are under the penalty of sin, that is, we all live under a sentence of death. The penalty is eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire. We had a debt that we could not pay. So, God himself paid the debt for us by becoming a human and dying in our place. The apostle Paul writes about this in the eighth chapter of his letter to the Romans. Here are some of his thoughts, paraphrased by—spoken in the words of—your olBi teacher.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. This is because God sent his own Son in human form as an offering for sin. This was so that the requirement of the Law would be met. We who accept Christ no longer have to be led by our fleshly desires. We can now be led by his Spirit that lives in us. For those of us who have accepted Christ, our bodies are still subject to physical death, but we are spiritually alive in Christ. Because of this spiritual life, we are led by his Spirit.

Everyone who is led by the Spirit of God is a child of God. We have not received a spirit of slavery and fear, rather we have received a spirit of adoption as children of God. As children, we cry out to God, calling him "Daddy"—a child's term of endearment for their loving father. The Spirit of God himself testifies in agreement with our spirit, that we are indeed God's children. As God's children we are also heirs of God and co-heirs with Jesus Christ. As co-heirs we will share not only in his sufferings in our physical bodies, but in his glory as well.

Paul said this concerning suffering: "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us" (Rom 8:18). He teaches that all of creation waits in eager expectation for the revealing of the children of God in our resurrected form. All of creation, the entire universe, is the inheritance of Jesus Christ. We share that future inheritance with him. But for now, the universe groans as if in childbirth. We also groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our final adoption as children of God. This adoption will be finalized when we are resurrected and receive our immortal bodies in our Father's presence. But for now, we live in this physical body. Yet we have a confident hope that through salvation in Jesus Christ, God's promises will be fulfilled.

In these physical bodies we are weak. So, the Holy Spirit who dwells in us helps us pray according to God's will. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groanings that simple words

cannot express. These Holy-Spirit-inspired prayers are in perfect agreement with God’s will and thus are powerful.

Because God loves his children, he causes all things to work together for our good. His purpose is for every one of his children to be conformed to the image of his Son, Jesus Christ. This means that everything that happens to us, whether good or bad, can be used by God. These things slowly conform our nature into the ideal nature of Jesus Christ. Paul said it like this, “Those whom God knew in advance would accept Christ, he predestined them to be conformed to the image of his Son, Jesus. And these whom he predestined, he also called. And these whom he called, he also justified—gave them right standing with himself. These who he justified, he also glorified” (Rom 8:29-30).

Paul continues writing with this incredible revelation: “What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? God, who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will God not also, along with Christ, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? God is the one who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one” (Rom 8:31-34).

Now we know that Satan would try to make us *feel* guilty and condemned. But God justified, or paid our debt through the blood of Christ. Jesus, who died for us, was also raised from the dead and sits at the right hand of God. When Satan would accuse us before God, Jesus himself intercedes for us. He declares that we are forgiven, our debt paid, and that his blood, shed upon the Cross, has washed away every sin.

Paul continues writing his powerful conclusion to this chapter: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship times, or persecution or famine, or poverty, or danger, or violence? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God that in in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8:35-39).

This lesson is **important** because it sums up God’s purposes in regard to sin, atonement, and our place in his creation as his children.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that all of us who accept Christ have his Holy Spirit living in us. The Spirit helps us in this life as we are conformed to the image of Christ.

Let's **review** this lesson—

1. The atonement of Jesus’ death on the Cross restores what with God? [Pause 5 seconds.]
 - A. If you said, “The atonement of Jesus’ blood restores our relationship with God,” you are correct.
2. As God’s children, what are we promised as an inheritance? [Pause]
 - A. If you said that the children of God will inherit all of creation, you are right.

3. What can separate us from the love of Jesus Christ? [Pause 5 seconds.]

A. If you said that nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus Christ, you are correct.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to watch this lesson at least three more times until you remember the many different truths presented. Meditate on the marvelous plan of redemption and God's final purpose for us, his children. Compare this with the horror of eternal judgment that those who do not come to Christ will face. Then present this teaching to your home church or Bible study, urging them to present the love of God to lost family and friends.