

WE BELIEVE!

WK VI - REDEMPTION (PT II)

Redemption (cont. from week IV)

Jesus then ascended to heaven where he reigns at the right hand of the Father. He is restoring the reign of God on earth as it is in heaven through the work of the Spirit, whom he poured out on the church at Pentecost. The Spirit convicts the world of its guilt in regard to sin and enables those God has chosen to repent from their rebellion and be transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of the beloved Son.

Thus, the Father, by the Son and through the Spirit, is restoring the reign of God on the earth and bringing about the shalom promised to Jesus, the Son of David.

We believe that salvation is a gift of God, received by faith and not earned by works. The Spirit enables lost sinners to repent and trust solely in Christ's finished work. These believers are united with Christ by the Spirit, justified by Christ's death and resurrection and forgiven of all their sin. By faith, we participate in the blessings promised to Abraham, enter into the New Covenant inaugurated by Christ and become representatives of God to the world. We are adopted into the family of God and sealed into the body of Christ.

Key Scriptures for the Week

- Acts 2:38-39
- Rom 3:21-27
- Phil 2:12-13
- 1 Thess 5:23

Key Points

- **Kingdom:** Christ is king, but His rule and reign are currently worked out in individual believers and will not reach its full extent until Jesus returns.
- **The Holy Spirit:** The third person of the Trinity, who is fully God and ministers directly to us to bring about salvation and transformation.
- **Faith Alone:** Salvation comes by faith, not by works. By trusting in God's promises, in who Jesus is and what He has done, He counts us righteous.
- **Adoption:** Salvation means sonship. By trusting in Jesus, you become a co-heir of Christ and a permanent member of God's family.
- **Grace Alone:** Salvation is a gift, not something we earn. We cannot add anything to our salvation; our good works are acts of worship.
- **Repentance:** When we turn to Jesus in faith, we also necessarily turn away from sin. This is repentance, rejecting sin and leaving it behind.

WK VI - CONT.

Key Points cont.

- **Sanctification:** Salvation begins the lifelong process of transformation, being set apart from sin, wholly to God. The God who saves us from the penalty of sin (Hell) will also save us from the everyday power of sin in our lives.
- **Perseverance:** Real believers finish the race. If someone denies the faith and does not repent, they testify that they never truly believed. This is important because we recognize that faith and transformation are gifts from God, and adoption is a status God never takes away.

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to you that Christ is king?
- Why is it important to know who the Holy Spirit is and what He does?
- Salvation by grace through faith can be challenging. Do you feel more tempted to abuse God's grace (i.e., sin because Jesus paid it all) or to prove yourself worthy through good works? Explain.
- What does sanctification look like in your life right now? Is it in any way different from where you started?
- How do adoption and perseverance impact your life?

We Believe! Outside the Gate

A close family member confides to you about a secret sin that's wrecking his life. He's worried he's not really saved because of the way he struggles, and afraid he won't be able to change. He's coming to you because he doesn't know what else to do.

- What would you say about what it means to be saved?
- What Bible verses would you point your family member to?
- Should you reassure this relative? If so, how?
- What things should you NOT say in this situation?
- What would be some practical next steps for helping?

"I BELIEVE..."

Summarize in your own words your beliefs about salvation and sanctification.