

Jesus Christ as Savior Christology Class 2

The heart of Christology is redemption in Christ. Thus, since redemption is the core of the biblical metanarrative, then Christology is at the biblical core and metanarrative. And if this is true, then we must see that the heart of Christology is the saving work of Christ.

It is important to note that the idea of salvation (Jesus saving sinners) is linked with the incarnation. This means that the Son of God came to earth to become human (by the sending of the Father) that He might save God's covenant people.

To summarize what we are talking about tonight, let us assert that Jesus Christ in His incarnational person came to earth to save, fulfilling God the Father's redemptive will and plan, establishing the basis for the salvation of the world, the defeat of evil, and the formation of God's kingdom on earth.

- Matthew 1:21 He was given the name, Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins.
 - The name "Jesus" is the name that indicates He is the Savior.
 - Jesus would save His people.
 - Jesus would save His people from their sins.
- Luke 19:10 Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost.
 - The Son of God came to earth in the incarnation to save.
 - Jesus saves by seeking His own who are lost.
 - Those whom Jesus seeks, He finds, and saves.
- 1 John 3:8 Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil.
 - Jesus destroys the devil's work of ignorance, falsehood, and deception.
 - Jesus destroys the devil's work of damaging our emotions.
 - Jesus destroys the devil's work of destroying relationships.
 - Jesus destroys the devil's work of separating sinners from God the Father.
 - Jesus destroys the devil's work of hell.
- Acts 4:12 There is no other Savior, but Jesus (See also John 14:6).
 - The exclusive claim is made that there is no other Savior or salvation except in Jesus.
 - There is no other name (the name indicates the person) by which we might be saved.
 - Jesus and the gospel (the name) are given to humanity to save those who believe in Christ.
- Luke 2:11 "Today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
 - Jesus was born to save.
 - Jesus, the Savior, is Lord.
 - As Lord, He is sovereign
 - As Lord, He teaches us
 - As Lord, He commands us to follow Him
 - As Lord, He is to be worshipped.
- 1 Timothy 1:15 "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost."
 - The saving biblical message concerning Jesus is a "trustworthy statement."
 - This message needs to be fully accepted by all people.
 - The message: Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
 - We need to personally apply this: "among whom I am foremost."

- 1 John 4:14 “We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.”
 - Jesus is the Savior of the world – there is no other way for the world to be saved.
 - The world will one day be saved through Jesus:
 - All people groups will be represented in heaven.
 - The world of salvation will be completed with worldwide application.

Jesus as Savior, Theological Significance:

Many systematic theologies do not have a separate category for Jesus as Savior probably because His saving life and ministry are part of every aspect of His incarnation, His saving work, and the gospel of Jesus Christ. In other words, we cannot conceive of Jesus Christ as He is revealed to be in the Scripture without thinking of His being the Savior of God’s people. Therefore, we must think of Jesus as Savior to understand Jesus. But an important part of this is to ask the question, “What is the nature of Jesus’ saving work?” For this we go to the doctrine of salvation (soteriology) to rightly perceive Jesus’ saving work as Savior. Even though soteriology is not our primary topic of study in Christology, it is closely aligned to our topic. I would like to take a brief moment to give some statements regarding the saving nature of Jesus’ saving work, before we continue our meditation tonight on Jesus as Savior:

1. Jesus’ saving work establishes a saving relationship between God’s people to God the Father.
2. Jesus’ saving work deals with the problem of sin, providing justification for believers before God.
3. Jesus’ saving work includes the reorientation of reality and human history in the eschatos.
4. Jesus’ saving work in the present transforms human lives and establishes love between people.
5. Jesus’ saving work provides joy and fulfillment for the human soul and gives hope for the future.

Jesus’ Entire Earthly Life has Saving Significance:

1. Jesus’ active and perfect obedience to the Law explains the nature of His perfect sacrifice; Jesus’ legal and moral perfection is essential to His substitutionary vicarious sacrifice.
 - a. Jesus’ active perfection under the law established the quality of His sacrifice for sin.
 - b. This gives infinite value to Christ’s saving sacrifice to:
 - i. Propitiate divine justice, which is infinite
 - ii. Appease divine wrath, which is infinite
 - c. This establishes the basis of the believer’s
 - i. Justification and acceptance before God.
 - ii. Forgiveness of sins
 - iii. Cleansing of soul
 - iv. Security of salvation
 - v. Certainty of hope for heaven
2. Jesus’ active perfection under the law is the imputed righteousness given to believers:
 - a. Imputed righteousness to the believer comes from imputed sin and satisfied justice.
 - b. Imputed righteousness is the gracious act of a satisfied God who loves and forgives.
 - c. Imputed righteousness (Jesus’ righteousness) makes the believer righteous before God.

Categories of Salvation through Jesus Christ?

1. Jesus, the saving Messiah: How does Jesus’ fulfilling the O.T. messianic promise act savingly?
 - a. Fulfilling God’s redemptive plan
 - b. Saving those whom God has chosen from the foundation of the world
 - c. Completing the old covenant in Himself and His saving work
 - d. Establishing the means of defeating evil

- e. Establishing the foundation for God's kingdom on earth
- 2. Jesus as Savior becomes the focus of believing faith:
 - a. Jesus and His saving work on the cross becomes the focus of saving faith
 - b. Having died for sins and believers, He becomes the focus of our faith and obedience.
- 3. Jesus' suffering as Savior is seen in the sacrifice on the cross:
 - a. Jesus' cross and suffering under the wrath of God because of imputational sin
 - b. Jesus' cross and shed blood as the atoning sacrifice for those who would believe in Him
 - c. Jesus' cross, His sacrificial propitiation, and the satisfaction of the Law and the appeasement of God's just wrath
- 4. Jesus as Savior is the Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:1-2)
 - a. Jesus' cross and mediation in heaven go together on behalf of God's people.
 - b. Jesus' mediation (intercession or advocacy) in heaven applies the propitiation of the cross
- 5. Jesus as Savior is the Guarantee of Salvation
 - a. Jesus' resurrection as the necessity of assurance regarding the efficaciousness of Jesus' saving work on the cross
 - b. Jesus' saving work
- 6. Jesus as Savior is seen in His being the Crucified and Risen Lord
 - a. The resurrection certifies the cross
 - b. Jesus' resurrection establishes Jesus as the Lord of life
- 7. Jesus is the Life-giving Savior
 - a. Jesus' resurrection and ascension and the connection to Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The Lord Jesus' life comes to believers in the Holy Spirit.
 - c. The Lord Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to those whom He saves.
 - d. The Holy Spirit bringing the life of Jesus creates the church.
 - e. The corporate nature of the Spirit's work in the life of Christ changes relationships.
- 8. Jesus, the Head of the church
 - a. Jesus' resurrection and Jesus' authority justifies Jesus' headship over the church.
 - b. The church is Jesus' life ministering in His name in the world.
- 9. Jesus is the Coming Champion
 - a. Jesus' saving work on the cross and victory in the resurrection and the second coming of Christ.

The essential and necessary aspects of Jesus' person and role as Savior in Christianity

1. The Only Savior: Jesus is the only exclusive Savior of sinners and the world.
2. The Obedient Sacrificial Savior: Jesus' saving work in His active obedience in life and His passive obedience on the cross is the only means by which the Law can be fulfilled, God's judgment satisfied, and eternal life given as a gift to those who believe in Christ.
3. The Hope-giving Savior: Jesus' resurrection, mediation, and second coming for the only hope for the world.

- a. Hope through giving life
- b. Hope through joyful experience
- c. Hope through assurance for tomorrow
- d. Jesus saves from God's wrath.
- e. Jesus saves from hell.
- f. Jesus saves through forgiveness of sins.
- g. Jesus saves through justification before God.
- h. Jesus saves through transformation of life in regeneration and the implantation of His life in the believer.
- i. Jesus saves because He defeated the devil.

Jesus as Savior – A Summary of Biblical Teaching on Jesus as Savior

1. Jesus as the saving sacrifice for sin, He assumes the responsibility, guilt, and punishment of sin, satisfying the justice of the law and the judgment of God's wrath (the cross and the mediation)
 - a. Forgiveness of sins
 - b. Cleansing from guilt
 - c. Imputed righteousness
 - d. Justified state before God
2. Jesus the Savior as the object of saving faith saves those who believe in Him.
 - a. To be saved, we look to Christ in faith
 - b. Christ saves those who look in faith to Him
3. Jesus the Savior as the Lord of life, gives eternal life to those who look to Him in faith.
 - a. Jesus Christ Himself is life
 - b. Jesus Christ is the life given to those who look to Him in faith
4. Jesus the Savior transforms lives, granting regeneration and sanctification
 - a. Jesus Christ transforms the lives of those who look to Him in faith
 - b. This transformation is summarized in regeneration and sanctification
5. Jesus is the deliverer from evil (works of the devil)
 - a. Jesus delivers from the power of the devil's lies
 - b. Jesus delivers from the power of the devil's grip
 - c. Jesus delivers from the power of the devil's attraction
 - d. Jesus delivers from the power of the devil's destruction
6. Jesus the shepherd Savior saves by providentially watching over His people
 - a. Those whom Jesus saves, He keeps
 - b. Those whom Jesus saves, He protects
 - c. Those whom Jesus saves, He provides for
 - d. Those whom Jesus saves, He prepares a place in heaven for them
7. Jesus the Teacher (the Word of God and Spirit), saves through His teaching, dispelling ignorance.
 - a. Jesus teaches us to bring us truth
 - b. Jesus teaches us to deliver us from false thinking
 - c. Thus, Jesus teaches bringing light to our darkness

8. Jesus the Savior preparing a heavenly home for His people, saves by taking us to heaven in death.
 - a. Jesus saves by preparing a place for us in heaven
 - b. Jesus saves His own by taking us to heaven when we die

The Three Categories of Jesus as Savior

1. Savior of – The people whom Jesus saves
 - a. The elect
 - b. The believers
 - c. His disciples

2. Savior from – The dangers from which Jesus saves
 - a. Sin
 - b. Hell
 - c. Divine judgment
 - d. Evil
 - i. Evil – the devil
 - ii. Evil – the fallen world system
 - iii. Evil – flesh of sinfulness

3. Savior for – The purpose for which Jesus saves
 - a. For holiness and sanctification
 - b. For new life
 - c. For justification and forgiveness of sins
 - d. For cleansing of our souls and consciences
 - e. For service
 - f. For heaven

*"We have heard the joyful sound,
Jesus saves, Jesus saves;
Spread the tidings all around;
Jesus saves, Jesus saves."*

*"Had I ten thousand gifts beside,
I'd cleave to Jesus crucified,
And build on him alone;
For no foundation is there given,
On which to place my hopes of heaven,
But Christ the corner-stone!"*

At the age of 82, Newton said, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: that I am a great sinner — and that Christ is a great Savior!"