

Who does Jesus die for?

The atonement is effectual for those whom the Father has given to Jesus.

- John 17:2,
- John 10:15

The free offer of the Gospel is made by the church to all: anyone whoever believes in Him has eternal life (John 3:16)

If there's time...

How should we think about our union with Christ?

Is that our souls are clean from sin, while our body lags behind? How do we avoid viewing the body as bad?"

Jesus saves! - Session 6

Questions about sin and salvation

Westminster Confession 8.1, "It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man; the Prophet, Priest, and King; the Head and Saviour of his Church; the Heir of all things; and Judge of the world; unto whom he did from all eternity give a people to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified."

So far:

Sin, judgment and our need of our Saviour
Jesus' incarnation... obedience... & death on the Cross

Still to come:

Jesus' resurrection, ascension and heavenly rule
The Christian's union with Christ
How the Holy Spirit applies Christ's work to the Christian

God's eternal plan of salvation:

When did God's plan of salvation begin?

Did God's plan only begin at the point when Adam and Eve fell?

Ephesians 1:11b, "... according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will."

Ephesians 1:4, "... he chose us in him before the foundation of the world..."

1 Peter 1:20, "He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times..."

Was the disobedience and fall of Adam something that was always going to happen?

3.1 “God from all eternity did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass; yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures, nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.”

God’s response to human sinfulness:

Is God’s holy judgement focused especially on our actions?

See Romans 1:18 ff

Jesus’ incarnation:

Jesus is God and man. But is Jesus REALLY a man?

Is his humanity like an “outer shell”?

Philippians 2:7, “but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”

John 1:14, “And the word became flesh. “

How can we think about Jesus without viewing him as having a “split personality”?

WCF 8.2, “... two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.”

Jesus’ death:

Was the death of Jesus’ body central to the atonement?

WCF 8.4, “... [he] endured most grievous torments immediately in his soul, and most painful sufferings in his body; was crucified, and died...”

Matthew 27:38, “...my soul is very sorrowful, even to death...”

Luke 22:44, “... being in agony, he prayed more earnestly...”

Matthew 27:46, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.”

Hebrews 10:5, “... a body you have prepared for me...”

1 Peter 2:24, “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree...”

What was in Christ’s mind as he approached his death? He knew...

- The odiousness of sin: because men sinned against him.
- The love of the Father – John 10:17, “For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.”
- His own love for his people – John 10:14-15, “I am the good shepherd. I know my own... I lay down my life for the sheep...”
- The wrath of the Father: in the garden, cry of dereliction.
- A indestructible joy – Hebrews 12:2, “... who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame...”