

FAMILY WORSHIP HELPS

WEEK 30

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

QUESTION 30: *How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?*

ANSWER: The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.



MONDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 32C

Scripture: Read Ephesians 1:3-14

Key Thought: *Redemption is the work of God alone.*

Questions:

- ☞ In Ephesians 1:3-9 what role does God the Father play in our redemption? When did He accomplish these things?
- ☞ According to verse 10, what role does God the Son play in our redemption? When did He accomplish these things?
- ☞ According to verses 11-14, what role does God the Holy Spirit play in our redemption? When does He accomplish these things?
- ☞ What is the role of the sinner?

Prayer

Notes: Following up on the previous question, the *Catechism* now directs us to the matter of how the Holy Spirit applies the redemption purchased by Christ to His elect. We begin by emphasizing the biblical truth that redemption, from start to finish, is the work of God alone. The popular notion of salvation—that God did everything He could for us and then left the acceptance of salvation in the hands of each individual—is a grave error which must be rejected. The Bible clearly reveals that redemption is the work of God alone, as the passage before us today demonstrates. Walk your children through verses 3-9, helping them to identify every accomplished action that is attributed to God the Father (i.e., He blessed us, He chose us, He predestined us, He made us accepted, etc.). Show them that all of these actions are presented as having been accomplished in the secret councils of God, before the foundation of the world. Next, read verse 10 again and show them that the blessings spoken of in the previous verses are said to have been attained through the work of Christ in the “fullness of the times.” The Son accomplished in time and history what God had ac-

completed in His unchanging eternal purpose. Finally, show them in verses of the Holy Spirit to apply the blessing of redemption to the hearts of those who are predestined. The Father purposes, the Son fulfills, the Holy Spirit appropriates. The role of the sinner is to believe the Word and trust in Christ as He is presented in the gospel, yet as we shall see, this trust and belief is itself a gift of grace worked in the heart of the sinner by the Holy Spirit.



TUESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 32C

Scripture: Read John 6:37-39; 14:26

Key Thought: *The Spirit agrees with the Father and the Son.*

Questions:

- ☞ What two promises does Jesus make in verse 37?
- ☞ How are these two promises connected to each other?
- ☞ If the Father purposes to save a man, can the Son fail to redeem him? Why not?
- ☞ If the Son dies to redeem a man, can the Holy Spirit fail to regenerate him? Why not?

Prayer

Notes: Today we will continue to look at the important relationship between the three Persons of the Godhead in the work of redemption, focusing especially upon the fact that the particular application of salvation by the Holy Spirit must follow from the work of the Father and the Son. If it did not, there would be a fundamental disagreement between the Persons of the Trinity and an inequality of power among the Godhead. In other words, if the Father purposed to save certain individuals, and the Son died to accomplish their salvation, but the Holy Spirit fell short of applying redemption to them, there would be a basic disunity in the Trinity which would make God less than omnipotent, omniscient, and even truthful. Jesus affirmed that the eternal purpose of God in election and the actual salvation of the elect by the Son would be in perfect agreement because of the uniformity of will between the Father and the Son. This same uniformity of will applies to the third Person of the Trinity as well. The Holy Spirit cannot fail to apply the salvation purposed by God and accomplished by Christ to every soul that is predestined to eternal life. His grace toward those who are His own is truly irresistible.



WEDNESDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 32C

Scripture: Read Ephesians 2:1-10

Key Thought: *The Holy Spirit works faith in us.*

Questions:

- ☞ According to Paul in verse 1, what condition were the Ephesians in before they were “made alive”? What does it mean to be “dead in trespasses and sins”?
- ☞ According to verse 3, what is the nature of all of us?
- ☞ What did God do for us through Christ?
- ☞ According to verse 8, how are we saved? Does the faith by which we are saved come from within ourselves? Where does it come from?

Prayer

Notes: Having seen that the redemption of God’s elect is the application by the Holy Spirit of the redemption purposed by the Father and accomplished by the Son, we are closer to understanding how this redemption is applied to us by the Spirit. The means by which it is applied, according to Scripture, is faith. We must understand, however, that faith itself is not something we have naturally within us, but is given to us by the Holy Spirit, as the *Catechism* says, “by working faith in us.” Paul clearly states the case in Ephesians 2, where he tells us that all men are “by nature children of wrath” and “dead in trespasses and sins.” Explain these phrases to your children, helping them to see that no sinner has any spiritual life within him that will enable him to believe the gospel when it is preached to him. A dead man cannot respond to anything. The application of salvation comes through the work of the Holy Spirit, who first breathes life into the dead soul of the sinner, enabling him to hear, understand, and believe the gospel (just as God first breathed the breath of life into the mouth of a dead lump of clay named Adam). This is why Paul says that we are saved by grace through faith, and that this faith is “not of ourselves” but is the gift of God. God therefore, and God alone, receives all of the credit and glory for the transformation of dead sinners into living saints.



THURSDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 32C

Scripture: Read Romans 10:10-17

Key Thought: *Faith comes through hearing the Word.*

Questions:

- ☞ What is “faith”?
- ☞ Is it necessary for faith to have some object (something to believe in)?
- ☞ By what means does the Holy Spirit communicate faith to the hearts of God’s people?

Prayer

Notes: So far we have seen that redemption is the work of God alone and that the Holy Spirit applies the salvation which the Father purposes in eternity and the Son accomplished in history. We have also seen that the sinner does not have any power within himself to appropriate the grace of God but is dependent upon the work of the Spirit to breathe new life into his dead soul and give him the gift of faith. Today we will discuss the outward means that the Holy Spirit uses to communicate faith to the hearts of God's elect. Begin by showing your children that faith does not have meaning apart from some object. In other words, one cannot simply "have faith," but must have faith in something. Saving faith is knowledge, belief, and trust in what God has accomplished for us in Christ. The means that God has ordained for communicating faith is the Word of God. This is why Paul says that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). God's Spirit works in and through the reading and preaching of God's Word to bring new life to dead sinners. If we seek to bring sinners to faith through any other means, we are bound to fail.



FRIDAY



Praise: Sing Psalm 32C

Scripture: Read I Corinthians 1:1-9; Galatians 4:19

Key Thought: *The Holy Spirit unites us to Christ.*

Questions:

- ⌚ How do we know that we have faith in Christ?
- ⌚ What evidence of true faith did Paul see in the Corinthians?
- ⌚ How does the Holy Spirit "unite us to Christ"?
- ⌚ How should this affect your daily life?

Prayer

Notes: The work of the Holy Spirit in applying redemption to the hearts of the elect transforms sinners into new creatures in Christ. Those who were "by nature children of wrath" are "sanctified in Christ Jesus" and given new hearts. It is natural to assume that such a radical transformation as this would result in an abundance of outward evidence in the life and conduct of one who has been united to Christ. Show your children the kind of evidence Paul notes in the lives of the Corinthian believers and challenge them to evaluate their own lives for evidence that they have truly been united to Christ and born again in His image. Urge them to pray continually for the Spirit to transform their outward actions as Christ is "formed in them" by the ongoing work of sanctification.



Note: Only five lessons per week are included. You are encouraged to lead your family in worship seven days a week. On weekends, you may want to review or build upon the lessons from the previous week, discuss the sermon from Sunday morning, or work on questions from the Catechism or memory verses. These lesson suggestions are intended to provide a simple framework for parents to build upon. You are not limited to this content. The habit of morning and evening family worship is the biblical ideal. We hope you can use these lessons as a starting point for the development of a blessed practice of family worship in your home.