

## Session 10: The Work of Christ

### I. The Work of Christ

#### A. The functions of Christ

The Functions of Christ:

Revelation, Rule, Reconciliation

Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King

#### B. The stages of Christ's work

##### 1. The humiliation: incarnation, death, descent into hades

Christ's humanity for us (John 1:18, Hebrews 2:17-18)

Hebrews 2:17-18 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brothers so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Christ's obedience for us (Romans 3:21-22)

Romans 3:21-22 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, but it is the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe.

Christ's suffering for us

##### i. Suffering throughout His whole life (Philippians 2:5-8, Hebrews 5:7-9)

"What Jesus gave up in coming to earth was immense. From a position of 'equality with God,' which entailed the immediate presence of the Father and the Holy Spirit as well as the continuous praise of the angels, he came to earth, where he had none of these. The magnitude of what he gave up is beyond our power even to imagine, for we have never seen what heaven is like...

...When we arrive there, we will probably be overwhelmed by the splendor of what he left. He who became a pauper was the highest prince." (Erickson, 703)

Philippians 2:5-8 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.

Hebrews 5:7-9 In the days of His humanity, He offered up both prayers and pleas with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His devout behavior. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey Him

ii. Physical pain and death of the cross (Suffered in his body on the cross?)

“Jesus suffered not only death, but a humiliating one at that. He experienced a type of execution reserved by the Roman Empire for grievous criminals. It was a slow, painful death, virtually death by torture. Add to this the ignominy of the circumstances. The mockery and taunting by the crowds, the abuse by the religious leaders and the Roman soldiers, and the challenges to each of his functions compounded the humiliation....

His status as a prophet was challenged during his appearance before the high priest...and by the taunts of the soldiers ‘if you are the king of the Jews, save yourself’...His priestly role was called into question by the scoffing remarks of the rulers, ‘He saved others; let him save himself...’” (Erickson, 706)

I Peter 2:21-24 for you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps, He who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being abusively insulted, He did not insult in return; while suffering, He did not threaten, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed.

iii. The pain of bearing sin (II Corinthians 5:21)

II Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

iv. Abandonment (Matthew 27:45-47)

Matthew 27:45-47 Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabaktanei?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, said, “This man is calling for Elijah.”

v. Bearing the wrath of God (Galatians 3:13-14)

Galatians 3:13-14 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”— in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

vi. Descent into hades (Ephesians 4:9-10)

Ephesians 4:9-10 (Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

I Peter 3:18-20 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all time, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which He also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison, who once were disobedient when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

Question: Did Christ descend into hell? (Acts 2:27, Romans 10:6-7, Ephesians 4:4-8, I Peter 3:18-20 and I Peter 4:6)

Acts 2:27 Because You will not abandon my soul to Hades, Nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

Romans 10:6-7 But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).”

Ephesians 4:7-8 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it says, “When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men.”

Ephesians 4:9-10 (Now this expression, “He ascended,” what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)

I Peter 3:18-20 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

I Peter 4:6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

These verses are complex and do not explicitly teach that Christ went to hell or suffered hell between His death and resurrection

These verses do imply that Jesus Christ accomplished something between the cross and the resurrection