

Who is Jesus? Savior – 12/22/24

I'm sure you've seen those children's books with the golden trim binding that are small biographies of different famous people. They are called Little Golden Biographies. I was walking through Barnes and Noble the other day and saw an entire shelf of them. You can find almost anyone in the series, from Harriet Tubman to Taylor Swift to George W. Bush to Arnold Schwarzenegger. They are basically a short introduction to some famous person meant for kids.

I actually checked to see if there was one for Jesus of Nazareth and there wasn't, but if there was a short introduction to Jesus of Nazareth, what do you think it would have to include to be accurate to who He was? At a minimum it would have to include the truths we have covered so far in this series. First of all, Jesus of Nazareth was truly God. Scripture is unequivocally clear that this is true. Colossians 1:15-20 shouts the deity of Jesus in a number of different ways. The second thing a children's introduction to Jesus would have to include is that He was not only truly God, but truly man. This is what we talked about last week from Galatians 4:4. Look there quickly with me. He's the Son of God, which points to His divinity, but He's also born of a woman, which points to His humanity. He's truly a human being in all that it means to be human.

Truly God and truly man tells us about the person of Jesus and who He was. But a large part of those little golden book biographies are meant to tell the reader about what the person did. What actions did they perform, that made a contribution or that put him or her on the map? Well, when you get to Jesus of Nazareth, there's no better word to summarize His work than Savior and that's what we will consider today as the 3rd answer to the question, Who is Jesus? Listen to Luke 19:10.

So, this morning from Galatians 4:5-7 I want to give you **4 Saving Benefits Supplied because of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.**

1. Redemption (v. 5)

All that we see in verse 4 is the lead up to the result of the incarnation that we see in verse 5. God sent His Son, the 2nd person of the Godhead, to be born as a man and under the law to accomplish two main goals. The first of these goals is redemption.

That's a very common church word, but we often use it in other areas of life. We love a good redemption story. The root idea is to buy back or to liberate from bondage. Paul says that Jesus came to liberate or redeem those who were under the law. How exactly does the law put one in bondage and in need of redemption?

Well, go back to Galatians 3:13. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law. How does the law bring a curse? No person is born able to perfectly obey and fulfill the law. The law makes sin obvious and plain. It's a fixed standard that we repeatedly break and breaking the law brings a curse on us because it is God's law. God is righteous, His law is good, and we have all broken it. So, we are cursed by the sin of breaking the law and enslaved by the sin that causes us to break the law of God. Listen to Romans 3:9-11.

But Christ comes and is born under the law, but He does not break it. In fact, He perfectly keeps it. And so, He is not deserving of death for sin, and He is not under the slavery that sin brings. But He gives Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin in order to liberate and redeem those who were justly under condemnation for sin. And He can only do this if He's both fully God and fully man.

If He had not been man, He could not have redeemed men. If He had not been a righteous man, He could not have redeemed unrighteous men. And if He had not been God's Son, He could not have redeemed men for God or made them the sons of God. – John Stott

So, Christ comes to redeem those who are under slavery and judgment because of sin. But His glorious actions don't stop there. He liberates us from sin and condemnation but doesn't leave us there.

2. Adoption (v. 5)

Look further into verse 5. It would be one thing for the richest man in America to pay your debt and free you from prison. It would be quite another for that man to adopt you into his family. God's love for us doesn't stop with forgiveness and the removal of judgment. It goes far beyond that to adoption.

Last week we talked a little bit about how Jesus is the Son of God and always has been. This doesn't mean that He's somehow less than God, it simply means He's the second person of the Trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have always existed into perfect harmony and love as a family. When we are redeemed and

adopted we are brought into that relationship. John 17:3 puts it like this. To know God and enjoy the fellowship of Father, Son, and Spirit is the highest benefit of our salvation. One author, J.I. Packer put it like this:

If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father.

If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all. – J.I. Packer

If the word “adoption” speaks to our status as a part of God’s family, then God makes sure that we experience the reality of divine fellowship in every day life. How? Through the 3rd benefit.

3. The Spirit (v. 6)

Look at verse 6. We saw in verse 4 that God the Father sent God the Son into the world. Now we see that God sends the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Every part of salvation as been initiated by God and secured by God’s gracious action.

When you are redeemed and receive the status of adoption into the family of God, God supplies you with the indwelling Spirit and His Spirit testifies in your heart that you are God’s child. In other words, the Spirit provides the experiential confirmation that you have forgiveness of sins and a relationship with God.

Listen to Romans 8:14-17. The phrase, “Abba, Father” is in both passages and this becomes the heart cry of the child of God. It’s not so much the incoherent babbling of an infant as it is the intimate cry of a child. The Holy Spirit helps you to daily view God as your Father. The Spirit prays along with you and confirms the reality of your new family status.

It's a status we have to learn to live into. Many times, we still view God through a judgmental and harsh lens. We don’t think of Him as a good Father and so we don’t approach Him in prayer. But let the reality of your new status and the presence of the Spirit bring joyful rest to your heart. You have complete and full access to your Father to come and to ask as a child would ask a loving Father.

4. Inheritance (v. 7)

Verse 7 is a summary of the movement that has taken place because of the incarnation. You and I were in verse 3. But God acted in Christ in verse 4 and sent the Son to take on human flesh. He died to redeem us and bring us into the family of God. Look at verse 7.

What does it mean to be an heir through God? Well, look back up to 3:29. God made certain promises to Abraham and one of the major points of this book of Galatians is that you and I, through Christ, now inherit the promises made to Abraham. Why do I say through Christ? Look back to 3:16. We are children of Abraham because we come to God through faith in Jesus Christ. The promises were ultimately to find fulfillment in Jesus Christ and we now have access to these promises because we are “in Christ”.

So, what do we inherit? Well, lots of things, but listen to Romans 4:13. Those who are adopted into the family of God become heirs of the world because that is what God promised Abraham. We will rule and reign with Christ and forever. We will experience the eternal joy of knowing Him.

But the summary of verse 7 is not true of every person. None of us are born into this. We are born slaves to sin and outside the family of God. Adoption must happen and the gift of the Spirit must happen. How? Galatians 3:21-22. Galatians 3:5-7.

These benefits come to you through faith in Jesus Christ. They come as you recognize your sin as worthy of judgment before God. Then you repent or turn from your sin and turn to Jesus as the God-man, and perfect sacrifice for sin and trust that sacrifice as the forgiveness of your sins. This connects you to Christ and then you receive all of the benefits we have talked about this morning because of Christ.

So, who is Jesus? He's God who became man in order to save and bring you into the family of God. Enjoy these benefits this Christmas. Let's pray.