

How Did Jesus Serve as Both Priest and Sacrifice?

*The Old and New Covenants

Leviticus 9; Hebrews 7:22–8:7

Animal Sacrifice

“Help! Help!” yelled nine-year-old Ryan Rambo as he swept down the icy waters of the Roaring Fork River in Colorado. Just minutes before, Ryan had been kayaking with his mom and a family friend. Now, he feared for his life.

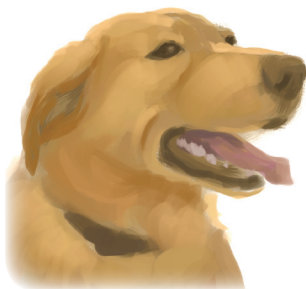
Thirteen-year-old Chelsea Bennett stood on the shore with Zion, her two-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever. As Ryan bobbed by, Zion jumped into the river. The untrained dog swam out and returned with Ryan clinging to his collar.

Onshore, Chelsea covered the shivering Ryan with warm sand. In a short time, Ryan’s mom and family friend arrived to help. Later,

Zion won the American Humane Association’s Golden Paw Award for his amazing rescue of Ryan.

Zion might have drowned attempting to save Ryan. Zion’s sacrifice rescued Ryan

from certain death. In this lesson, we will learn about animal sacrifices of another kind—the Old Testament kind that pointed to Jesus and the sacrifice He would make of Himself to rescue us from sin and death.



Old and New Covenant Comparisons

In the Old Testament, God’s people received the forgiveness of sins through a system of priests and sacrifices. In this system, priests would select healthy animals and offer them to God to pay for the sins of the people. This practice was known as the old covenant. In the New Testament, God’s people receive forgiveness from Jesus, the great High Priest whose once-for-all sacrifice on the cross ended the sacrificial system. We remember Jesus’ sacrifice as we receive forgiveness and the assurance of salvation in the Lord’s Supper. Explain the meaning of the words of the following Communion hymn.

Draw near and take the body of the Lord.
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.



Himself the Victim and Himself the Priest

Jesus served and continues to serve as our great High Priest in three ways. Match the description of each with the number of the Bible verse on the right that most closely explains it.

_____ Active Obedience (Jesus placed Himself under the Law and obeyed God in our place without sin.)

_____ Passive Obedience (Jesus sacrificed Himself to pay the penalty for all human sin.)

_____ Intercession (Jesus pleads for us at the right hand of God the Father.)

1. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2).
2. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons (Galatians 4:4–5).
3. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1 John 2:1).

A Sacrifice Recognized

Two friends visited a cathedral in Italy to see its artwork. One was Christian; the other was not.

Looking at a large figure of Jesus hanging on the cross, the Christian said, “Isn’t that beautiful?” The other man looked at Jesus and replied, “I don’t see anything beautiful about it.”

The Christian asked, “If you knew that Jesus was up there to save your wife and children, would it be beautiful then?” Surprised, the man replied, “Yes, yes, then it would be beautiful to me.”

Jesus lifted up on the cross is not a pretty sight, but He is beautiful to those He saved. Jesus’ sacrifice paid the price for the sins of the world. God freely gives the benefits of this sacrifice to everyone who believes in Jesus: forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and a life of

purpose and contentment as a child of God. What difference has Jesus’ sacrifice made in your life? What difference might it make?



REVIEW

Use the glossary to define these words.

propitiation— _____

intercede— _____

advocate— _____

sacrifice— _____

REMEMBER

[Christ] is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Romans 8:34

What Names Do We Now Have in Christ and What Do They Mean for Us?

*Jesus Walks on Water

Matthew 14:22–34

The Name Christian

When people come to faith in Jesus, they receive a new name and a new identity, a name that describes them as something new. That name is *Christian*. It means one who belongs to Christ. Followers of Jesus were first called Christian in the city of Antioch during the time of the apostle Paul. Can you think of other names that may be synonyms for the name *Christian*?

A Name to Live Up To

Because we are sinners, even Christians sometimes fail to evidence their faith in Jesus. Read Matthew 14:22–34 to learn about what happened to Peter after he asked for the opportunity to put his faith to the test. Label the following story events in the correct order:

- _____ Jesus assures the disciples who He is and encourages them.
- _____ Peter cries out, “Lord, save me.”
- _____ Jesus dismisses the crowds and sends the disciples to the other side of the sea.
- _____ Jesus takes hold of Peter’s hand.
- _____ They get in the boat, and the wind ceases.
- _____ Jesus goes to the mountain by Himself.
- _____ During the fourth watch of the night, Jesus comes to them, walking on the sea.
- _____ Peter asks Jesus to identify Himself by commanding Peter to walk on the water.
- _____ Peter sees the wind and becomes afraid and begins to sink.
- _____ The disciples declare Jesus to be the Son of God.
- _____ Jesus rebukes Peter.

REVIEW

righteousness— _____

innocence— _____

blessedness— _____

Righteous, Innocent, and Blessed—in Jesus

Can we really be called these things because we believe in Jesus? Is there really forgiveness and a new beginning for Peter and all others who fail to live up to our new identity in Christ? We certainly don’t deserve it, but yes, in Jesus, we are forgiven! Jesus has redeemed us, lost and condemned creatures. And, yes, because of His life, death, and resurrection for us, we can indeed be called righteous, innocent, and blessed. Review what Jesus has done for you by completing the activity below, matching each statement about a person who trusts in Jesus for salvation with the Bible verse most closely relating to that statement.

- _____ 1. Christ took my sin upon Himself so that I may be righteous and blameless in the sight of God.
 - _____ 2. Because Christ has saved me, I am now freed from the slavery of sin and thus freed to serve God.
 - _____ 3. As a child of God through faith, I am chosen and set apart so that I can praise God for the light He brings into my life.
 - _____ 4. As Christ’s redeemed people, we are to set our hearts on the things of God.
 - _____ 5. Because Christ has died for us, we are to live for Him.
- a. Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin (Romans 6:6).
 - b. You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9 NIV).
 - c. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV).
 - d. He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised (2 Corinthians 5:15).
 - e. Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:2–3 NIV).



Someone New

Ramid and his family left their war-torn country at night, barely escaping with their lives. They found a new home overseas, where they worked hard to build new lives for themselves. One day after soccer practice, a friend told Ramid about Jesus. The next day, his friend gave him a Bible. Eventually, Ramid became a Christian and received Christian Baptism, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Ramid’s family disowned him, but Ramid says he is happy in Jesus. He continues to pray for his parents and sisters. And his new Christian friends have become his family in more ways than one!

REMEMBER

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Why Do Worship Services Include Confession and Absolution?

*Lost Son

Luke 15:11-32

Sins Confessed, Forgiveness Received

Having learned about private confession in confirmation class, I decided to check it out. So I called my pastor to set up an appointment for private Confession and Absolution. Making the call was easy, but then things became more difficult. As the day of my appointment grew closer, I began to run through in my mind a number of ways I could get out of it. I thought about simply not showing up or of feigning sickness or some last minute situation that would necessitate postponing my appointment for some vague, future time.

My struggle wasn't that I'd done anything unusually bad, just the normal, run-of-the mill sins, at least for me. I had talked back to my parents a few times, told a few well-formulated lies when I found myself in a tight situation, thought a few thoughts I didn't want anyone else to know about. Nothing big. It's just that I didn't want my pastor to think of me as a sinner. I wanted to keep his respect; I knew he liked me, at least up until now.

But as the time for our meeting arrived, I amazed myself by resolving to go through with our meeting. I decided God would want me to get real with myself and with my pastor about my sins. After all, I reasoned, if it weren't for sin, the pastor would find himself without a job. And I was sorry for my sins. I knew Jesus had paid for them and I regretted the way my sin had contributed to His suffering and death.

As always, the pastor was warm and friendly. He began with a few words from Psalm 51 and then invited me to confess the sins I had committed. I simply spoke them to him, realizing that big or small, Jesus had already forgiven them. The pastor was Christ's representative. He heard my confession in Christ's place. Then, He asked me if I believed that his proclamation and assurance of forgiveness came from our Savior Himself. "Yes, I believe that," I replied.

Then, I heard the assuring words that my sins had been buried with Christ, and because of His death and resurrection, I had been raised to live a new life in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Part of what had just happened seemed rather ordinary, like two people engaged in serious conversation. But mostly, what had just occurred was fantastic. And I knew it.



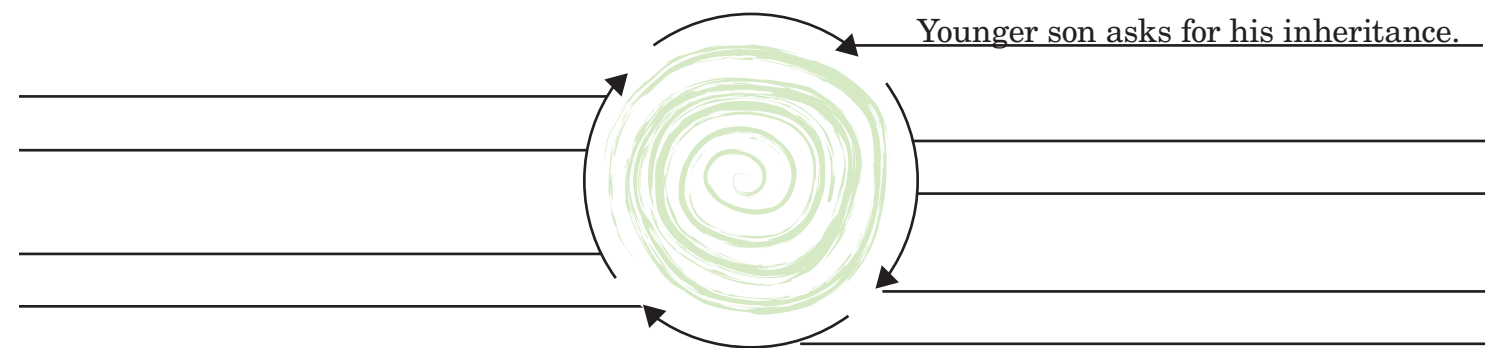
REVIEW

squandered—spent _____ or foolishly
 confession—a written or oral _____ of _____ of a party accused of an _____
 absolution—a _____ (forgiveness) of _____

Parable of the Prodigal Son

Read Luke 15:11-32 and fill in the graphic organizer correctly by placing the following sentences to illustrate the events of the story. The first one is done for you.

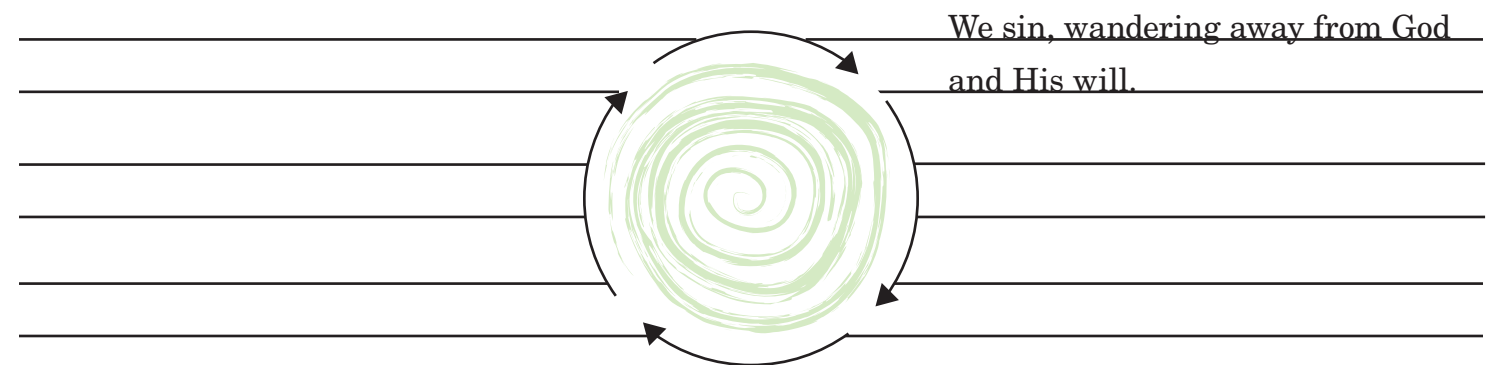
Younger son asks for his inheritance.
 Younger son lives a reckless life, loses his money.
 Younger son gets a job feeding pigs.
 Younger son decides to return to his father as a servant.
 Father welcomes his son and rejoices.



Sin and Restoration

Public Confession and Absolution usually take place at the beginning of Christian worship services. Confessing our sins and receiving the declaration of God's grace and forgiveness, we come into the presence of God once again to receive His gifts as children approaching their loving Father. Place each of the following sentences referring to sin and restoration in the life of believers.

We sin, wandering away from God and His will.
 We come to a recognition of our sins and their consequences.
 We feel sorrow and contrition over the things we have done.
 We confess our sins.
 We receive the assurance that Jesus has forgiven our sins.
 We resolve to begin anew, forgiven and restored.



REMEMBER

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. . . . I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Psalm 32:3, 5

How Can I Effectively Witness to My Friends and the Members of My Family?

John 1:35–45

Spread the Good News

Read John 1:35–45 and fill in the blank speech bubbles. See how Christ’s disciples came to Him through the witness of friends and family.



verses 40–41



verse 42



verse 43



verse 45

REVIEW

witness—
Gospel—

Sharing Jesus’ Love with Those Closest to Us

Monica’s son lived a life of sin. But Monica never gave up hope that one day her son would become a follower of Jesus too. When she talked with her son about Jesus, her words seemed not to be heard. For many years, she fasted and prayed for her son, often in tears. Meanwhile, she continued to serve God by studying His Word and helping others. Often, she talked with her pastor about her wayward son. Once, he comforted her with these words: “God’s time will come. It is not possible that a son of so many tears should perish.”

Then one day, Monica heard from her son the news she had long waited to hear. He would give up his life of sin and become a follower of Jesus. At age 33, Monica’s son was baptized.

Monica’s son served his Savior faithfully for the rest of his life. And who was Monica’s son? We know him as St. Augustine of Hippo, a famous Church Father in the Early Christian Church.

By God’s grace, we can share the love of Jesus to everyone, beginning with our family and friends. If they may resist, God remains at work. His desire is for all people to come to faith in Jesus.

Look up the following verses. What does each verse say about how we can share Jesus’ love so that eventually, through the working of God’s Spirit, others may come to faith?

1. 1 Timothy 4:12 _____
2. Colossians 4:2–4 _____
3. 1 Peter 3:15 _____



REMEMBER

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12