

Benefits (of Redemption)

Lesson 4 – Assurance and a Peaceful Conscience

Series Overview and Review

So often the Christian faith is presented as if the whole point is what happens when we _____.

But our salvation is about _____ than that.

WSC Q32: What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of _____?

A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, sanctification, and the several benefits which, in this life, do either accompany or flow from them.

Justification is about how we are made _____ in the sight of God.

Adoption is about how we are made _____ and _____.

Sanctification is about how we are made _____ - status we receive by grace,

but also a _____ we undergo by God's power to become what he has already made us to be.

WSC Q36: What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

Two important truths to consider:

We _____ have these things apart from justification, adoption, and sanctification.

Because we are justified, adopted, and sanctified, we _____ have these things.

Assurance of God's Love

How does *justification* give us assurance of God's love?

1 John 4:10

Romans 5:8

The sacrifice of Jesus to pay for our sins and make us right was not an act of _____.

Jesus doesn't die for us because he _____ to. He does it because he _____ to.

The Father sends the Son as an act of _____.

John 3:16

Romans 8:31-39 – What does Paul look to for the assurances of these blessings?

How *adoption* assures us of God's love

What motivates our adoption in *Ephesians 1:3-5*?

The love is not because we are _____. We are children because we are _____.

1 John 3:1

What if I don't *feel* this assurance?

We can _____ this assurance, even when we do not _____ it or _____ it

This assurance is based on what _____ has done, not on what _____ do.

And what God has done is true, regardless of how you _____ about it.

And yet...we are to be _____ in making sure we are bearing the _____ of redemption.

2 Peter 1:10

Peace of Conscience

Conscience, simply put, is our God-given sense of _____ and _____.

A properly functioning conscience reminds us of our sin and guilt.

A conscience naturally wants to be _____.

Apart from Christ, there are two ways to have a peaceful conscience:

1) _____ no wrong

2) Having a _____ conscience (*1 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:15-16*)

Those in Christ experience this peace by having their sins _____.

Does this mean we shouldn't feel guilty about wrongdoing?

1 John 1:8-10

According to *Romans 8:1-4*, how does the **justifying** work of Christ address our conscience?

The sin is not on our _____ – it is on _____

2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:4-6

Our **sanctification** gives us peace of conscience

1 John 3:18-20

Our obedience is not the _____ of our peace,

our obedience is the _____ of the _____ that should give us peace

What if I don't *feel* this peace?

We look again to the _____ work of Christ that _____ us from sin

2 Corinthians 7:10; 1 John 1:9-2:2

Union with Christ

We are _____ because of our union with Christ (*Ephesians 1:4-5*)

We are _____ because of our union with Christ (*Hebrews 10:10, 1 Corinthians 6:11*)

Addendum:

Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter 18: The Assurance of Grace and Salvation

1. Although hypocrites and other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and fleshly presumptions that they are in God's favor and in a state of salvation, this hope of theirs will perish. Nevertheless, those who truly believe on the Lord Jesus, love him sincerely, and strive to live in all good conscience before him, may in this life be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, a hope that shall never make them ashamed.

2. This certainty is not merely a conjectural and probable persuasion grounded on a fallible hope, but an infallible assurance of faith, founded on the divine truth of the promises of salvation, on the evidence in our hearts that the promised graces are present, and on the fact that the Spirit of adoption witnesses with our spirits that we are God's children. The Holy Spirit, by whom we are sealed for the day of redemption, is the pledge of our inheritance.

3. This infallible assurance does not so belong to the essence of faith but that a true believer may wait long and contend with many difficulties before he partakes of it. Yet, because he is enabled by the Spirit to know the things which are freely given to him by God, he may—without any extraordinary revelation—attain this assurance by a proper use of the ordinary means. It is therefore the duty of everyone to be very diligent in making certain that God has called and chosen him. By such diligence his heart may grow in peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties which obedience to God requires—the proper fruits of this assurance. Thus it is far from inclining men to carelessness.

4. True believers may have the assurance of their salvation shaken, diminished, or temporarily lost in various ways: as by negligence in preserving it, by falling into some special sin which wounds the conscience and grieves the Spirit, by some sudden or violent temptation, or by God's withdrawing the light of his countenance and allowing even those who reverence him to walk in darkness and have no light. Yet, true believers are never completely deprived of that seed of God and life of faith, that love for Christ and fellow believers, that sincerity of heart and conscience concerning duty, out of which—by the operation of the Spirit—this assurance may in due time be revived; and by which, in the meantime, they are supported from utter despair.