

A History of the Work of Redemption

By Jonathan Edwards

Lesson 15 - Period 2 - Part 2

“The work of redemption is a work that God carries on from the fall of man to the end of the world”

As Edwards continues to look at the time of the incarnation, he will change His focus to now look at what was intended by the purchase of redemption, some observations about the purchase, and why the purchase was _____ to God.

First, we must answer the question, “What did Christ purchase for us in redemption?” The answer to this is twofold (one negative and one positive answer): His purchase paid our _____ and also bought for us eternal _____.

“All is done by the price that Christ lays down, which does two things; it pays our debt and so it satisfies; it procures our title to happiness, and so it merits. The satisfaction of Christ is to free us from misery, and merit of Christ is to purchase happiness for us.”

Second, Edwards turns his attention to some general observations about the purchase of redemption. Edwards continues to use this satisfaction and merit understanding to help us see the _____ and _____ aspects of our redemption in Christ.

“Whatever in Christ had the nature of satisfaction, was by virtue of the suffering or humiliation that was in it; but whatever had the nature of merit, was by virtue of the obedience or righteousness there was in it. The satisfaction of Christ consists in His answer to the demands of the law on man, which were consequent on the breach of the law. These were answered by suffering the penalty of the law. The merit of Christ consists in what He did to answer the demands, which were prior to man’s breach of the law, or to fulfill what the law demanded before man sinned, which was obedience.”

“Both Christ’s satisfaction for sin, and also His meriting happiness by His righteousness, were carried on through the whole time of His humiliation. Christ’s satisfaction for sin was not by His last suffering only, though it was principally by them; but all His sufferings, and all His humiliation, from the first moment of His incarnation to His resurrection, were propitiatory or satisfactory...difficulty of any kind which He suffered through the whole course of His life, was of a propitiatory and satisfactory nature.”

“It was by the same things that Christ hath satisfied God’s justice, and also purchased eternal happiness...One and the same act of Christ, considered with respect to the obedience there was in it, was part of His righteousness, and purchased heaven; but considered with respect to the self-denial, and difficulty, and humiliation, with which He performed it, had the nature of satisfaction for sin, and procured our pardon.”

Third, in looking at why the redemption of Christ was acceptable to God, Edwards looks at the law(s) which Christ obeyed, the times in which He obeyed, and the _____ that He manifested in His obedience.

“Every command that Christ obeyed may be reduced to the great and everlasting law of God that is contained in the covenant of works, that eternal rule of right which God had established between Himself and mankind. Christ came into the world to fulfill and answer the covenant of

works; that is, the covenant that is to stand forever as a rule of judgment. The covenant that we had broken, was the covenant that must be fulfilled.”

The Lord Jesus Christ obeyed the Law as a _____ (moral law), a _____ (ceremonial and judicial laws), and as the _____ between God and man (those laws that were particular to Him).

“What Christ had to do in the world by virtue of His being Mediator, was infinitely more difficult than what He had to do merely as a man, or as a Jew. To His obedience to the mediatorial law belongs His going through His last sufferings, beginning with His agony in the Garden, and ending with His resurrection.”

Christ obeyed the law _____. His obedience was the greatest that ever was. His trials and temptations were greater than those which any other person will ever face. Christ’s obedience was completed attaining _____ merit given the “infinite dignity” of His person.

Christ obeyed the law of God in every _____ of His life—from being a child unto adulthood.

“He was perfectly obedient in His childhood. He infinitely differed from other children, who, as soon as they begin to act, begin to sin and rebel.”

In His ministry Christ obeyed in three primary ways: _____ the gospel, doing _____, and _____ His disciples.

Preaching- *“Great part of the work of His public ministry consisted in this; and much of that obedience by which He purchase salvation for us, was in His speaking those things which the Father commanded Him...He delivered His doctrines, not only as the doctrines of God the Father, but as His own doctrines.”*

Miracles- *“They were works of mercy. In them was displayed not only His infinite power and greatness, but His infinite mercy and goodness.”*

Calling the disciples- *“These were the main instruments of setting up His kingdom in the world.”*

Christ’s obedience was great in everything. However, the greatness of His obedience is most clearly seen in the way in which He _____ the work of redemption.

“The greatest thing that He ever did and the greatest thing that was ever done, was offering up Himself a sacrifice to God. Herein He was the antitype of all that had been done by all the priests, in all their sacrifices and offerings, from the beginning of the world.”

Before closing this section, Edwards would have us take notice of the virtues that were displayed in His obedience. He takes care to specifically mention the virtues: holy fear, reverence, _____, patience, contempt of the world, meekness, and _____.

“Christ in doing His work for our redemption, exercised every possible virtue and grace...Strict virtue shine most when most tried: but never any virtue had such trials as Christ had.”

“Never did there appear such an instance of love to men. Christ’s love to men, especially in going through His last sufferings, and offering up His life and soul under those sufferings, which was His greatest act of love, was far beyond all parallel. There have been very remarkable manifestations of love in some of the saints, as in the apostle Paul, the apostle John, and others; but the love to men that Christ showed when on earth, as much exceeded the love of all other men, as the ocean exceeds a small stream.”