

A History of the Work of Redemption

By Jonathan Edwards

Lesson 16 - Period 2 - Part 3

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

Before Edwards finishes his preaching on this period of redemptive history, he first discusses in detail the _____ of Christ and then looks at the uses of this doctrine (when he uses the word “uses” we use the word “application”).

Christ suffered “uncommon humiliation” in His _____. He was born in an uncommon way and without the common comforts one would expect. Not only was the actual birth of Christ hard and humiliating but after His birth He was already being persecuted.

“Christ suffered banishment in His infancy, was driven out of His native country into Egypt, and without doubt suffered much by being carried so long a journey, when He was so young, into a strange country.”

Christ suffered great humiliation in his life _____ to His public ministry. The eternal Son of God and Lord of Glory living as a common laborer was indeed a great part of His humiliation.

“He led a servile, obscure life, in a mean, laborious occupation (Mark 6:3)...By hard labor He earned His bread before He ate it, and so suffered that curse which God pronounced on Adam (Gen 3:13), ‘In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread.’...Christ’s humiliation in some respects was greater in His private life than in the time of His public ministry. There were many manifestations of glory in the word He preached, and the miracles He wrought: but the first thirty years of His life He spent among ordinary men, as it were in silence.”

Christ suffered great humiliation in His public ministry (from the time of His baptism to the night of His betrayal). He suffered having to deal with _____ (no place to lay His head, having to be supported financially by others, unable even to pay the common taxes without a miracle, He even had to use someone else’s house to eat the final Passover meal, He was also unable to make arrangements for His own place of burial).

Another way He suffered in His public ministry was in the _____ He received from others.

“He was despised and rejected of men; one of little account, slighted for His low parentage, and His mean city of Nazareth. He was reproached as a glutton and drunkard, a friend of publicans and sinners; was called a deceiver of the people; sometimes called a madman, and a Samaritan, and one possessed of the devil...They excommunicated Him and agreed to excommunicate any man that should own Him (John 9:22). They wished Him dead, and were continually seeking to murder Him...The hatred was general. Into whatever part of the land He went, He was met with hatred and contempt...”

But of all the sufferings of Christ, the greatest sufferings were the result of His _____ and torturous _____. He was sold for a slave’s price (Ex. 21:32). The agony of His time in the garden caused His body extreme duress and during such agony those who claimed to care for Him cared more about sleep than seeking to aid Him. Betrayed by someone very close. Treated as a criminal. Disowned by His friends. Mocked by Herod. So greatly despised that a murderer was chosen to be freed instead of Him. Spit upon. Beaten. Crowned with thorns. Crushed under the weight of carrying His own cross. Nailed to a cross to die the worst sort of death. Feeling in His very soul the wrath of God. Under such pains and still having to endure cruel mockery.

“Now Christ’s sufferings are come to the extremity: now the cup, which He so earnestly prayed might pass from Him, is come: He must, He does drink it...If the mere forethought of this cup made Him sweat blood, how much more dreadful and excruciating must the drinking of it have been!...And thus was finished the greatest and most wonderful thing that ever was done.”

Edwards concludes this section with application: giving reproof and encouragement. He reproves 3 different sorts of people: those who do not _____ in Christ, those who try to _____ themselves by their works, and those who simply _____ Christ.

To those who do not _____ in Christ Edwards says, *“Let me now call upon such to consider how great their sin, in thus rejecting Christ. You slight the glorious person, for whose coming God made such great preparations in such a series of wonderful providences from the beginning of the world, and whom, after all things were made ready, God sent into the world, bringing to pass a thing before unknown, viz., the union of the divine nature with the human in one person. You have been guilty of slighting that great Savior... You make light of all the glory of His person, and of all the glorious love of God the Father, in sending Him into the world, and all His wonderful love appearing in the whole of this affair... If this Savior is so great, and this work so great, and such great things have been done in order to it; truly there is no cause to wonder that the rejection of this Savior is so provoking to God. It being greater guilt than the sins of the worst heathens, who never heard of those things, nor have had this Savior offered to them.”*

To those who _____ Christ by trying to save themselves by their own works, Edwards says, *“How great a thing that is which you take upon you. It is to do the work of the great Savior of the world. Though you are poor, worthless, vile, and polluted, yet you arrogantly take upon you that very work for which the only-begotten Son of God became man; and in order to which God employed four thousand years in all the great dispensations of His providence, aiming chiefly to make way for Christ’s coming to do this work. This is the work that you foolishly think yourself sufficient for.”*

“To take on yourself to work out redemption, is a greater thing than if you had taken it upon you to create the world... You that trust in your own righteousness, arrogate to yourselves to honor of the greatest thing that ever God Himself did. You seem not only sufficient to perform divine works, but such is your pride and vanity, that you are not content without taking upon you to do the very greatest work that ever God Himself wrought.”

To those who simply _____ Christ, Edwards says, *“God has put you under great advantages for your eternal salvation, far greater than those saints of old enjoyed. He has put you under a more glorious dispensation; has given you a more clear revelation of Christ and His salvation and yet you neglect all these advantages, and go on in a careless course of life, as though nothing had been done, no such proposals and offers had been made to you.”*

“Shall the great God be so concerned about this salvation, as often to overturn the world, to make way for it; and when all is done, is it not worth your seeking after?... O! that you who live negligent of this salvation, would consider what to do!”

“God looks on you as great enemies of the cross of Christ, as adversaries and despisers of all the glory of this great work. And if God has made such account of the glory of salvation as to destroy many nations, in order to prepare the way for the glory of His Son in this affair; how little account will He make of the lives and souls of ten thousand such opposers and despisers as you, who continue impenitent, when your welfare stands in the way of that glory! Why surely you shall be dashed to pieces as a potters vessel, and trodden down as the mire of the streets. God may, through wonderful patience, bear with hardened careless sinners for a while; but He will not long bear with such despisers of His dear Son, and His great salvation, the glory of which He has had so much at heart, before He will utterly consume without remedy or mercy.”

Lastly Edwards quickly encourages his congregation in two ways:

1. Know that _____ of the purchase that has been made-*“Here is a complete salvation wrought out by Christ, and through Him offered to you. Come, therefore, accept of it, and be saved.”*
2. Christ will not _____ those that come to Him-*“For Christ to reject one that thus comes to Him, would be to frustrate all those great things which God brought to pass from the Fall of man to the incarnation of Christ.”*