

Conf 3 Lesson 3: Sin, the Cross & the God-man – Oct 2

Fall 2024; Instructor: Michael Bromley

Objectives: *Grasp the logic of Salvation & why Christ had to die on the Cross*

Opening prayer: Phil. 2:5–6, 8 (an early Church song)

Warmup: Fix vocabulary using key

Exercise: “Jesus on Avoiding Sin” handout

I. Scattering v. Gathering

- “devil” is from the Greek *diaballein* = “to throw across, throw apart”= “to scatter”
 - “scattering” = separation
- Heaven = “This perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity” ([CCC 1024](#))
 - = “gathering” = coming together with God

Scattering	Gathering
Adam & Eve	Jesus
The Flood	Noah (the Ark)
Tower of Babel	Covenant w/ Abraham / Pentecost
Exile in Egypt	Moses
Hell	Heaven
Pride	Humility
Sin	Repentance
Not going to Mass	Going to Mass

II. God’s plan of Salvation

By refusing God's plan of love, [man who freely sinned] deceived himself and became a slave to sin. ([CCC 1739](#))

- What man has undone, done wrong, or failed to do, Christ redeems and fulfills

III. Why did Christ have to die?

He said, “The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.” ([Lk 9:22](#))

“Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ([Lk 24:26](#))

The logic of Salvation

1. Satan introduced death by tempting Adam and Eve, who freely sinned against God
 - [Gn 1:3](#); see also [Rom 5:12](#)
2. God corrects man (“curses” = corrective punishments) and also offers blessings
 - man will now toil the earth and experience death ([Gn 3:17-19](#))
 - man blessed with family and dominion over the earth
3. Adam’s descendants remain disobedient to God
 - although God chooses some for special blessings, they or their descendants continue to disobey God (see [Gn 5:3](#), [Gn 6:8](#), [Ex 19:15](#))
4. Jesus becomes man
 - he has no sin:
 - “Behold the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” ([Jn 1:29](#))
5. Jesus must defeat death: the Cross and Resurrection
6. Jesus dies to pay for our sins, because we cannot pay the debt on our own
7. Through belief in Christ, we earn eternal salvation (return to God)

- Why is the Cross is at the heart of Catholic faith?
 - see [John 3:13-17](#)
- Some notes:
 - If we have no debt to pay, Jesus died in vain (for no reason)
 - The Cross is nothing without Resurrection
 - Resurrection is nothing without the Cross
 - If Jesus didn't die for us, we're all just dead

IV. **The God-man: 100% God, 100% man**

- Called the "hypostatic union"
 - Christ is both ALL God and ALL man
 - In the Old Testament, the prophets say, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel" ([Ex 5:1](#))
 - In the New Testament, Jesus says,
- St. Anselm "[Cur Deus Homo?](#)" (pp. 66-67)
 - *God does not owe the debt of sin*
 - *Man cannot pay the debt of sin*
 - Therefore, only Christ as God and Man can both owe and pay the debt

"For God will not do it, because he has no debt to pay; and man will not do it, because he cannot. Therefore, in order that the God-man may perform this, it is necessary that the same being should perfect God and perfect man, in order to make this atonement." (St. Anselm, [Cur Deus Homo, Ch. 7](#))

Therefore, Christ must be both God and Man to redeem us

Additional notes:

- God could have chosen any way to redeem us; but he chose the Cross
- See God's "Plan of Salvation" from the Catechism ([CCC 624](#)):

"By the grace of God" Jesus tasted death "for every one". In his plan of salvation, God ordained that his Son should not only "die for our sins" but should also "taste death", experience the condition of death."
- it remains a mystery, but one he points to throughout Salvation History:
 - Passover: see [Exodus Ch. 12](#)
 - See [Psalm 51:6](#)
- It's all about sin (separation from God):
- Jesus forgives a sin before presenting a miracle; see [Mk 2:9](#)

"Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk?'"

V. **"Jesus on Avoiding Sin" handout**

- Exercise:
 - Each pair of students will be assigned a method of avoiding sin
 - Pairs are to present to the class a real world scenario and how following Jesus' advice would lead to avoidance of a sin that would have otherwise been committed

***"No one has greater love than this:
to lay down one's life for one's friends." (Jn 15:13)***