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Introduction to Systematic Theology
Lecture 6 – The Doctrine of the Work of Christ
First Presbyterian Church of Orlando
Spring 2017

I. Introduction

A. “Alexamenos worships his God.”

B. Review 1234

C. Today: the work of Christ the redeemer

1. Atonement and enthronement
2. Redemption accomplished, redemption applied

Geerhardus Vos: “There is no gift that has not been earned by him. Neither is there a gift that is not bestowed by him.”

II. Biblical images of the work of Christ

A. Common themes

1. Christ’s relationship to his people
2. Atonement/redemption accomplished
3. Enthronement/redemption applied

B. Exodus imagery

1. The OT imagery

- a. Redemption from slavery
- b. Adoption as sons
- c. Inheritance of the land
- d. Indwelling presence of God in tabernacle and temple

2. Texts: Gal 3.10-14; 4.4-7

Common themes

- a. Christ’s relationship to his people: **Christ is our kinsman-redeemer**
- b. Atonement/redemption accomplished: **Christ redeems us/pays our ransom**
- c. Enthronement/redemption applied: **Christ grants us freedom from slavery, adoption, inheritance, indwelling of the Holy Spirit**

C. Covenant imagery

1. The OT imagery

- a. Covenant relationship
- b. Covenant precept
- c. Covenant penalty
- d. Covenant blessing
- e. New exodus → covenant curses; debtors to God's law (Isa 40)

2. Texts: Gal 3.10-14; 4.4-7

Common themes

- a. Christ's relationship to his people: **Christ is our covenant head** (2 Sam 21; Rom 5.12-21)
- b. Atonement/redemption accomplished: **Christ satisfies the precept and penalty of the covenant** (Rom 5.12-21; Gal 3.10-14; 4.4-7)
- c. Enthronement/redemption applied: **On the basis of his merits, Christ grants us the free gifts of righteousness, covenant union, covenant blessing, flowing down from the head to the body** (Ps 133)

D. Cultic imagery

1. The OT imagery

- a. Laying on of hands/burden bearing
- b. Raising of hands/blessing bestowing
- c. Stain and cleansing

2. Texts: John 1.29, 36; Gospel of Luke

Common themes

- a. Christ's relationship to his people: **Christ is our lamb and priest**
- b. Atonement/redemption accomplished: **Christ is our substitutionary sacrifice**
- c. Enthronement/redemption applied: **Christ cleanses us of our sin, grants us access to God's presence, intercedes for us** (Rom 8.34; Heb 7.25), **bestows God's blessing**

III. Conclusion: "Alexamenos worships his God."

- A. Gods in the dock: Isa 45.20; 46.1-4—our God bears our sins and bestows a blessing

- B. Worthy is the lamb that was slain (connect to Heb 1.2: his glory, our happiness in him)
- C. “Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all”