

OUR REDEMPTION BY CHRIST

Lesson Aim: To do good works to others by Christ's sacrificial work to redeem and reconcile us.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson and insert the questions below where they fit your lesson for class discussion.

Introduction: God redeemed us from the power of sin by Christ's death to live a life of godliness by His resurrection. We were reconciled to God by receiving Christ as our Savior. This brings all believers into one body to be reconciled. "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph 2:10).

Why do we need to be regenerated? 2:1-3

Regeneration is desperately needed because all of us are spiritually dead in our sins; we are separated from God. Instead of walking according to God's ways, we have walked according to the ways of the world, and of Satan, seeking to satisfy the sinful desires of our flesh (the old nature). We are children of disobedience (against God's law); we are children of wrath (under God's judgment).

What are the benefits of regeneration? 2:4-7

Regeneration is mercifully and graciously provided for all sinners by God's love shown in Jesus Christ. Believers in Christ are (1) quickened - made alive with Christ in salvation; (2) raised up - given power by Christ for sanctification; and (3) seated - given authority with Christ in our glorification. God will demonstrate His exceeding riches of grace to us in Christ in the ages to come.

What is the basis for regeneration? 2:8-9

When we were totally opposed to God's desires and lived to gratify our own desires, God offered us His gift of salvation by Jesus Christ. All we needed to do was receive this gift by faith (2:8; Jn 1:12). But how could we obtain faith when we were dead (spiritually separated from God)? Romans 10:17 says, "Faith comes by hearing the Word of God." God draws near lost sinners when they hear His Word. However, do all have faith when they simply hear the Word? No, hearing it is the first of two steps. Learning God's Word must follow hearing before faith comes. God opens the hearts of those that learn so they can seek and find Him (Isa 55:6-7). Then they can call on Him in faith to be saved (Rom 10:13-14). Jesus told lost sinners that those who hear and learn of the Father will come to Him (Jn 6:45). Those who hear and learn what God says to them will be drawn to His Son for salvation (Jn 6:44). We cannot be saved by our good works. We can be saved only by faith in Jesus' good works for us: His death on the cross to pay for our sins and His resurrection from the grave to give us eternal life.

What is God's purpose in regenerating sinners? 2:10

God not only saves the believer from going to Hell in regeneration; He also fashions the believer to be like His Son (Rom 8:29). Regeneration is a process by which God changes believers so they produce good works by the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) that will bring glory to Him now and in the ages to come (2:7).

Why did the Gentiles need to be reconciled? 2:11-12

Gentiles were without Christ, had no hope after death and were without the true God. They could not be citizens in God's nation and had no covenant with Him for His blessings. Jews felt they were better than Gentiles and Gentiles resented it, so they hated each other. They needed to be reconciled, but how?.

How did God reconcile the Gentiles and Jews to each other? 2:13-18

Reconciliation between Gentiles and Jews seemed impossible, but not for God. The solution was found in reconciling them first to Himself through the blood of Jesus Christ (2:13). Then Christ broke down the wall that divided them by bringing them together in one body and making peace. Through Christ both have access to God by one Spirit. When believers draw close to God, they will be close to each other.

How is the unity between all believers pictured in this chapter? 2:19-22

Christ united Gentiles together with Jews into one mighty, holy nation (2:19) which will rule the world when Jesus Christ is its King (Rev 1:6; 5:8-10; 20:4, 6). Second, they are united in one family ("household") with God as their Father (2:18-19). Finally, they are one beautiful, holy temple in which God dwells (2:20-22).