

13.b. COMMUNION WITH CHRIST IN PURCHASED

GRACE

Our acceptance by God is not as a result of our obedience, but solely on the obedience of Christ. And Christ's obedience is inherent in His righteousness from the Father.

Are we then freed from obedience? Yes, in as far as obeying the law in our own strength in order to obtain everlasting life. This was a condition of the old covenant that of course man was completely unable to keep. However, we are not freed from obedience as a way of walking with God. By Christ's obedience to the law, we are made righteous **ROM 5:18 & 19**. It is Christ's obedience that is reckoned to us as righteousness **1 JN 1:9** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Adam's disobedience was an active transgression of the law. And so, Christ's obedience was an active obedience to the law. There is no such thing as passive obedience. We cannot be fence sitters. There must be an active commitment. The righteousness that we need, is that righteousness as if we had obeyed the whole law. This is what Christ did and is now reckoned to us. This is the key to our reconciliation. This reconciliation has been brought about by Christ's death.

ZECH :3-5 talks about the High Priest Joshua, dressed in filthy rags (see also **EX 33:11**). Two things we learn that the High Priest's sins (filthy rags) are taken away, and that he is dressed in new garments. This situation applies to us also as the regenerate. The dressing in new clothes is the symbolization of Christ's righteousness imputed to us. We are made righteous by that which is not ours, but Christ's. Christ's death has taken away our sin, and Christ's righteousness has clothed us in our new garments, befitting of our appearing before the throne of grace.

The death of Christ was the price paid for our redemption. It was a very high price to pay as it separated Him from the love of the Father. **MATT 27:46** "... My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" The redeemer pays the price to the one who holds authority over the captive. We in our unregenerate state are captives to the Devil in sin. Redemption therefore is the delivery of one from bondage or captivity.

The one who commits us to prison and into bondage is God Himself. Adam rebelled against God in the garden. Therefore, God shuts up men under the power of disobedience. It is God who will cast both the bodies and souls of all the impenitent into the fires of hell. It is only by the death of Christ that men are delivered from the terrible and everlasting torment.

Christ's human body was prepared for Him, as the sacrificial lamb, to accomplish what the Old Testament sacrifices and burnt offerings symbolized. He also offered this sacrifice to God as the atonement for reconciliation. In the Old Testament Moses offered himself to God as an atonement for the people's rebellion. And also, Paul offered to die so that some of the Jews could be saved. Both these statements were purely symbolic, because we know that no man has anything to offer for his brother's life. It was only the sinless Christ who qualified for this sacrifice.

Christ's death was also a punishment for man's rebellion against God. Punishment means suffering, as opposed to a deterrent for murder, as modern-day human rights advocates would have it. Sin has to be punished. Man takes no notice of deterrents. **NUM 14:33** "Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness? **EZE 18:20** "The soul who sins is the one who will die "

Justice can desire no more than "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth". This is the exact punishment due for sin, and one which we deserve. Jesus voluntarily took this on, which God permitted Him to do.

So, if we would have communion with Christ, we are to hold communion not only in His life of obedience for us, but also in His death for us as a price, a sacrificial offering, and a punishment.

The Lord Jesus does not leave us only forgiven and redeemed but carries this work through to the uttermost. There is the continual intercession on our behalf at the throne of Grace. There is the continual work of sanctification by the Holy Spirit is growing our Spiritual character, in order that we may do the good works that God has set out for us to do in this life.

There is the work of comforting us and of providence by God for His people. These are the good things purchased for us by the blood of Christ.