

Dr. Robert A. Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 11, 9 Saving Events, Part 3 [Death, Resurrection] Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 11, 9 Saving Events, Part 3 [Death, Resurrection], Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Robert Peterson's lecture focuses on the pivotal roles of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection in achieving salvation. The session explores how these "core events" fulfill essential prerequisites established by Christ's incarnation and sinless life. **Peterson outlines six key perspectives on Christ's saving work, emphasizing that these diverse depictions ultimately convey humanity's lost state and Christ's redemptive action.** He further examines the saving significance of Christ's resurrection, highlighting its crucial role in justification, forgiveness, reconciliation, and the inauguration of the new creation for believers, both presently and in the future. **The lecture draws upon numerous biblical passages and insights from theologians to underscore the inseparable nature and profound impact of Christ's death and resurrection on salvation.**

**2. 23 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 11 – Double click
icon to play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (Theology → Theology, Peterson → Christology).**



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3. Briefing Document: Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 11, 9 Saving Events, Part 3 [Death, Resurrection]

Briefing Document: Christ's Saving Work - The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

Subject: Review of the Main Themes and Important Ideas Regarding the Saving Significance of Jesus Christ's Death and Resurrection, as presented in Dr. Peterson's Session 11.

Overview:

This briefing document summarizes the key points from Dr. Robert A. Peterson's session on "Christ's Saving Work," specifically focusing on the core saving events: Jesus's death and resurrection. The session emphasizes that both events are essential and inseparable for understanding how Christ accomplishes salvation. Dr. Peterson explores various "pictures" or themes to illustrate the multifaceted significance of Christ's death and then delves into the often-overlooked saving power of his resurrection.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. The Centrality of Christ's Death and Resurrection:

- Dr. Peterson establishes that after examining the Incarnation and Sinless Life of Christ, the study now turns to the "core events in His Saving Accomplishment, that is, His Death and Resurrection."
- He quotes J.I. Packer to highlight the immense love of God demonstrated in giving His Son to die for sinners: "The measure of the love of God is the gift of His only Son to be made man, and to die for sins, and so to become the one mediator who can bring us to God."
- The New Testament consistently points to the cross as the ultimate proof of God's love.

2. Six Pictures of Christ's Saving Accomplishment (Death):

Dr. Peterson introduces six key "pictures" that describe the redemptive significance of Christ's death:

- **Christ is our legal substitute:** He suffered the penalty of the law in our place, leading to our justification.

- Relevant Scriptures mentioned: Isaiah 53:11, Romans 3:25-26, Galatians 3:13, Colossians 2:14, 1 Peter 3:18, 1 John 2:2 and 4:10.
- **Christ is our victor:** He defeated Satan and demonic forces through his death and resurrection.
- Relevant Scriptures mentioned: Isaiah 52:13, 53:12, John 12:31, Colossians 2:15, Hebrews 2:14 and 15.
- **Christ is our redeemer:** He paid the ransom price in his death, freeing us from slavery to sin.
- Relevant Scriptures mentioned: Mark 10:45, Luke 9:31, Acts 20:28, Ephesians 1:7.
- **Christ is our reconciler:** His death makes peace between God and humanity, restoring fellowship.
- Relevant Scripture mentioned: Romans 5:10.
- **Christ is our second Adam:** Through his obedience unto death and resurrection, he restores the benefits lost through the first Adam and justifies us.
- Relevant Scriptures mentioned: Romans 5:18-19, Hebrews 2:9.
- **Christ is our sacrifice:** As the great high priest, he offered himself as a unique sacrifice, cleansing us from sin and enabling us to approach God.
- Relevant Scriptures mentioned: Isaiah 52:15, 53:10, John 1:29, John 1:36, John 17:19, Ephesians 5:2, Hebrews (various), 1 Peter (various), Revelation (various).
- Dr. Peterson emphasizes that while these are distinct pictures, they all convey the same fundamental truth: "The six say we were lost in sin, and Christ saved us."

3. The Multiplicity of Pictures and Their Significance:

- The variety of these pictures mirrors the multifaceted nature of sin. "That is, God presents sin in technicolor, not just black and white, and he presents the atonement in the same technicolor as well."
- This multiplicity underscores the profound grandeur of Christ's saving work, deserving praise and devotion from various perspectives.
- It also provides a means for God to minister to diverse needs, as different pictures may resonate more deeply with individuals in different circumstances. The example of a student ministering to inner-city youth highlights how the concept

of Christ's sinless life and the Second Adam resonated with those who struggled to relate to Jesus's divinity.

4. The Saving Significance of Christ's Resurrection:

- Dr. Peterson notes the relative lack of theological attention given to the resurrection compared to the death of Christ, quoting Howard Marshall: "It is a remarkable fact that there are many monographs on the theology of the death of Christ, but very few by comparison on the theology of his resurrection... how it is a saving event is neglected."
- He asserts that "The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ saves. The very heart of his saving work is his death and resurrection." This is supported by Paul's summary of the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, which includes both Christ's death "for our sins" and his resurrection "on the third day in accordance with the scriptures."

5. Key Ways Christ's Resurrection Saves:

- **Justification and Forgiveness:** While the cross is central to God declaring sinners righteous, the resurrection is also necessary for our justification. Romans 4:24-25 states that righteousness "will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification."
- The resurrection testifies to the efficacy of Christ's death.
- It signifies that Jesus, having died for us, is freed from death by God, guaranteeing our future freedom from death.
- The resurrection underscores that God's justifying grace is consistent with his life-giving power.
- Without the resurrection, as stated in 1 Corinthians 15:17, "your faith is futile and you are still in your sins," because Christ's death alone would lack its full atoning, redemptive, and liberating effect.
- **Establishing Peace with God (Reconciliation):** Romans 5:10 indicates that while reconciliation is attributed to Christ's death, our final salvation is linked to his resurrection life: "if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."

- Christ's resurrection and intercession assure believers they will not be condemned.
- His resurrection guarantees his permanent priesthood (Hebrews 7:23-25), enabling him to "save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them." This intercession involves the continual presentation of his priestly sacrifice in heaven.
- **Inaugurating the New Creation:** This is presented as the predominant significance of Christ's resurrection in salvation. The new creation, while fully realized in the future return of Christ, was begun with his resurrection.
- Believers experience the results of the new creation *now* through regeneration. This concept of "already and not yet" applies to the new creation and other aspects of eschatology.
- John 11:25-26 presents Jesus as "the resurrection and the life," bestowing eternal life to those who believe. His resurrection demonstrates his power as the life-giver.
- Ephesians 2:4-7 highlights how God, in his mercy, made us alive together with Christ, giving us spiritual life now through union with his risen Son.
- 1 Peter 1:3 states that we have been "born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Jesus's resurrection unleashes the divine power for regeneration.
- Through Christ's resurrection, God will transform our mortal bodies into immortal resurrection bodies at his return (Philippians 3:20-21).

Conclusion:

Dr. Peterson's session clearly articulates the indispensable roles of both Christ's death and resurrection in God's saving work. The death of Christ, understood through various biblical "pictures," addresses the multifaceted problem of sin. The resurrection is not merely a historical event confirming his victory but is itself a saving event that brings justification, forgiveness, reconciliation, and, crucially, inaugurates the new creation, offering believers new life now and the promise of future resurrection. Both aspects are inextricably linked and essential for a complete understanding of Christ's saving accomplishment.

4. Study Guide: Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 11, 9 Saving Events, Part 3 [Death, Resurrection]

Christ's Saving Work: Death and Resurrection Study Guide

Key Concepts and Themes:

- **The Core of Christ's Saving Accomplishment:** The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the central events in God's plan for salvation.
- **Six Pictures of Christ's Saving Death:** The text introduces six ways to understand the significance of Christ's death: legal substitute, victor, redeemer, reconciler, second Adam, and sacrifice. While distinct, these pictures describe the same fundamental reality of Christ saving us from sin.
- **Multiplicity of Pictures:** The various depictions of Christ's saving work and the nature of sin highlight the comprehensive nature of both and cater to diverse needs and understanding.
- **Saving Significance of the Resurrection:** Beyond its historical importance and connection to the future resurrection of believers, Christ's resurrection itself is a saving event.
- **Justification and Forgiveness through Resurrection:** Christ's resurrection, alongside his death, is necessary for our justification (the positive imputation of righteousness and the non-imputation of sin). It also underscores the efficacy of his atoning death for the forgiveness of sins.
- **Establishment of Peace with God:** The resurrection contributes to the reconciliation between humanity and God, ensuring our final salvation.
- **Inauguration of the New Creation:** The primary saving significance of Christ's resurrection is the inauguration of the new creation, experienced now through regeneration and to be fully realized in the future resurrection and eternal life.
- **Already and Not Yet:** The new creation, like other aspects of eschatology, is both a present reality (experienced in part by believers through regeneration) and a future fulfillment (in its fullness at Christ's return).
- **Roles of the Trinity in Regeneration:** The Father plans and causes regeneration, the Son's resurrection is the source of new life, and the Holy Spirit applies that life to believers.

Short-Answer Quiz:

1. According to the text, what are the two essential prerequisites to Christ's saving accomplishment that were examined before his death and resurrection?
2. Name three of the six "pictures" used to describe the redemptive significance of Christ's saving death, as introduced in the lecture.
3. Why does the scripture use a multiplicity of pictures to describe Christ's saving work, rather than stating it in one simple way?
4. According to Howard Marshall, what aspect of Christ's saving work has received significantly less theological attention compared to his death?
5. In 1 Corinthians 15, what two events does Paul include as being of "first importance" in the gospel message?
6. How does Romans 4:23-25 connect both Christ's death and resurrection to the concept of justification for believers?
7. According to Anthony Thistleton, what is lacking in Christ's death alone if the resurrection did not occur, in relation to human sin?
8. How does the writer to the Hebrews (7:23-25) argue that Christ's resurrection ensures he can "save to the uttermost"?
9. What is presented as the predominant truth regarding how Jesus' resurrection saves, beyond justification, forgiveness, and reconciliation?
10. Explain the "already and not yet" concept in relation to the new creation inaugurated by Christ's resurrection.

Answer Key:

1. The two essential prerequisites examined before Christ's death and resurrection are his Incarnation and his Sinless Life. These laid the groundwork for his saving work.
2. Three of the six pictures of Christ's saving death are: Christ as our legal substitute, Christ as our victor, and Christ as our redeemer. Others include reconciler, second Adam, and sacrifice.
3. Scripture uses a multiplicity of pictures because of the multiplicity of the pictures of sin, to underscore the grandeur of Christ's saving work, and to minister to diverse needs and understandings among believers and unbelievers.

4. According to Howard Marshall, the theology of Christ's resurrection has received far less theological attention compared to the theology of his death (atonement).
5. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul includes Christ's death for our sins and his resurrection on the third day as being of "first importance" in the gospel message, both being in accordance with the scriptures.
6. Romans 4:23-25 states that Jesus "was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification," indicating that both his death atoned for our sins and his resurrection was necessary for us to be declared righteous.
7. According to Anthony Thistleton, without the resurrection of Christ, Christ's death alone has no atoning, redemptive, or liberating effect in relation to human sin.
8. The writer to the Hebrews argues that because Christ continues forever as the risen one with a permanent priesthood, he is always alive to make intercession, thus enabling him to save completely and eternally.
9. The predominant truth regarding how Jesus' resurrection saves is by inaugurating the new creation of God, which includes both our present regeneration and our future resurrection for eternal life.
10. The "already and not yet" concept means that the new creation was begun in Christ's resurrection, and believers experience its initial results in regeneration now, but its full realization, including the new heavens and new earth and the complete resurrection, is yet to come at Christ's return.

Essay Format Questions:

1. Discuss the significance of understanding Christ's saving death through multiple "pictures" (legal substitute, victor, redeemer, reconciler, second Adam, sacrifice). Why is this multifaceted approach important for comprehending the atonement?
2. Explain the argument presented in the lecture for why Christ's resurrection is not merely a consequence of his saving work, but an integral and necessary component of it, particularly in relation to justification and forgiveness.
3. Describe the concept of the "new creation" as it is inaugurated by Christ's resurrection. How is this reality both a present experience for believers and a future hope?
4. Analyze the roles of the Father, Son (specifically his resurrection), and Holy Spirit in the regeneration of believers, as presented in the lecture.
5. Considering the insights from the lecture, why might the resurrection of Christ have received less theological focus historically compared to his death? What are the implications of understanding the saving significance of the resurrection more fully?

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Incarnation:** The doctrine that the Son of God became fully human in the person of Jesus Christ, taking on flesh while remaining fully God.
- **Sinless Life:** The teaching that Jesus Christ lived a life completely without sin, fulfilling all the requirements of God's law.
- **Atonement:** The work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation and reconcile us to God, typically referring to the satisfaction of God's justice through Christ's sacrifice.
- **Justification:** God's act of declaring sinners righteous in his sight, not based on their own merit but on the righteousness of Christ imputed to them through faith.
- **Propitiation:** The act of appeasing or satisfying God's wrath against sin through sacrifice; Christ's death is understood as a propitiation for our sins.
- **Redemption:** The act of buying back or freeing someone from bondage or captivity; Christ's death is the ransom that frees us from sin and Satan.
- **Reconciliation:** The restoration of friendly relations between alienated parties; Christ's death and resurrection reconcile humanity to God.
- **Regeneration:** The spiritual rebirth or renewal of a person's heart by the Holy Spirit, giving them new life in Christ.
- **Eschatology:** The branch of theology concerned with the end times or last things, including topics like death, resurrection, judgment, and the eternal state.
- **Imputation:** The theological concept of crediting or reckoning something to someone; in justification, God imputes Christ's righteousness to believers and does not impute their sin to them.

5. FAQs on Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 11, 9 Saving Events, Part 3 [Death, Resurrection], Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: Christ's Saving Work - Death and Resurrection

1. Why are both Jesus' death and resurrection considered core events in his saving work? Both Jesus' death and resurrection are essential components of his saving work. His death served as the atoning sacrifice, paying the penalty for humanity's sins and providing the basis for justification, forgiveness, and reconciliation with God. However, his resurrection is equally vital as it signifies the triumph over sin and death, validating the efficacy of his sacrifice and inaugurating the new creation. Paul explicitly includes both in his summary of the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15, emphasizing that "Christ died for our sins... that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day."

2. The text mentions six pictures of Christ's saving accomplishment. What are they, and what do they illustrate? The six pictures presented are:

- **Christ as our legal substitute:** He suffered the penalty of the law in our place, leading to our justification.
- **Christ as our victor:** He defeated Satan and demonic forces through his death and resurrection.
- **Christ as our redeemer:** He paid the ransom price to deliver us from slavery to sin.
- **Christ as our reconciler:** He made peace between God and humanity, bringing us back into fellowship.
- **Christ as the second Adam:** He restored the honor and dominion lost by the first Adam and offers justification.
- **Christ as our sacrifice:** As our great high priest, he offered himself to cleanse us from sin and enable us to approach God.

These pictures, while distinct, all describe the same reality: that humanity was lost in sin, and Christ saved us through his death and resurrection. They offer different perspectives to help us understand the multifaceted nature of his saving work.

3. Why does the Bible use multiple "pictures" or metaphors to describe Christ's saving work? There are several reasons for the multiplicity of pictures. First, it corresponds to the multifaceted nature of sin itself, which is portrayed in Scripture in various ways. Just as sin has many dimensions, so too does the atonement. Second, these diverse perspectives underscore the profound grandeur of Christ's saving work, deserving of praise and devotion from different angles. Finally, the various pictures provide a way for God to minister to individuals with different needs and understanding, as one image might resonate more deeply with a particular person in their specific circumstances.

4. How does Christ's resurrection contribute to our justification and forgiveness? While Christ's death is the foundational basis for our justification as our substitute paying the penalty for sin, his resurrection is necessary as it testifies to the efficacy of his death and signifies God's acceptance of his sacrifice. Romans 4:25 states that Jesus "was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." His resurrection demonstrates that he was freed from death by God, guaranteeing that believers will also be freed. Furthermore, 1 Corinthians 15:17 asserts that without the resurrection, our faith is futile, and we are still in our sins, highlighting its necessity for the atonement's redemptive effect.

5. How does Christ's resurrection establish peace with God or reconciliation? Romans 5:10 indicates that while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, and even more so, now that we are reconciled, we shall be saved by his life (resurrection life). Christ's resurrection assures believers that they will not face condemnation on the day of judgment because God has justified them, and Christ, having been raised, intercedes for them. His resurrection is inseparable from his death in effecting salvation and ensuring our ultimate deliverance from God's wrath.

6. What does it mean that Christ's resurrection "inaugurates the new creation"? Christ's resurrection marks the beginning of the new creation, a reality that is both "already" present and "not yet" fully realized. Just as the fullness of the new heavens and new earth awaits Christ's return, the new creation began with Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Believers experience the results of this new creation now through regeneration, receiving new, eternal life. This present experience is an anticipation of the future resurrection and the complete transformation into resurrection bodies like Christ's.

7. How does Christ's resurrection relate to believers receiving eternal life now? The resurrection of Jesus is the source of the eternal life that believers receive now through regeneration. John 11:25-26 quotes Jesus saying, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." His resurrection shattered the power of death, and as the living Lord, he bestows this new, eternal life upon those who are united with him through faith. This is a present reality, an anomaly of having eternal life in mortal bodies, which will be fully realized in immortal bodies at the future resurrection.

8. What roles do the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit play in regeneration as a result of Christ's resurrection? The Father, in his mercy, plans and causes our regeneration through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:3). The Son's resurrection is the dynamic power, the source of the new, eternal life. The Holy Spirit applies this resurrected life to believers, quickening them and bringing them alive to God, fulfilling the Father's plan through the power unleashed by the Son's resurrection. All three persons of the Trinity are involved in bringing about the new birth and the experience of the new creation in believers.