

Dr. Robert A. Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 14, Essential Results, Part 3, 6 Pictures of Christ's Saving Works

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 14, Essential Results, Part 3, 6 Pictures of Christ's Saving Works, Pentecost, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Robert A. Peterson's lecture explores the multifaceted saving work of Christ, focusing in this session on **Pentecost, Jesus's intercession, and the Second Coming** as essential results of his death and resurrection. Peterson outlines **six key pictures** illustrating this work: substitution, victory, sacrifice, restoration, redemption, and reconciliation, beginning with an examination of **reconciliation as peacemaking** initiated by God, the offended party. He emphasizes that through Christ's person and atoning death, **humanity moves from enmity to friendship with God**, a transformation that impacts individuals, the church, and the cosmos. While acknowledging God's inherent holiness, Peterson discusses the concept of **God's own reconciliation** in response to human sin, leading to the removal of his righteous wrath and the bestowal of his love.

2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 14 – 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 14, Essential Results, Part 3, 6 Pictures of Christ's Saving Works

Briefing Document: Key Themes and Ideas from Dr. Robert A. Peterson's "Christ's Saving Work, Session 14"

Overview: This document summarizes the main themes and important ideas presented in Session 14 of Dr. Robert A. Peterson's teaching on Christ's saving work. This session focuses on the essential results of Christ's death and resurrection, specifically examining Pentecost, Jesus's intercession, and the Second Coming. It also introduces the first of six "pictures" used to understand Christ's saving work: Reconciliation.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. The Essential Results of Christ's Saving Work:

- Peterson emphasizes that Jesus' death and resurrection are the "unique saving events" that have "awesome and necessary results for the people of God."
- This session focuses on three key results: Pentecost, Jesus's Intercession, and the Second Coming.

2. Pentecost as a Saving Event:

- Pentecost is presented as "as much the work of Jesus as are any of the other nine saving events."
- Peterson highlights that "he and the Father, as a matter of fact, poured out the Spirit at Pentecost."
- At Pentecost, Jesus:
 - "publicly announced the new covenant"
 - "publicly proclaimed the new creation"
 - "publicly bestowed the Spirit on the new community"
- While the Holy Spirit existed and worked before, Pentecost marked a new and powerful manner of the Spirit being given to God's people. As Sinclair Ferguson states, "Until the exaltation of Christ... the Spirit of God could not be received in his specific economic identity as the Spirit of the ascended Christ."
- Pentecost brought about:

- The fullness of salvation arriving in a grander and fuller way. "Before the cross, God saved people based upon the work of Christ, yet in the future."
- A huge transition in redemptive history affecting believers' relationship with the Son and the Spirit, making faith in the risen, vindicated Lord explicit.
- New power for witness and ministry, as summarized by Wayne Grudem: "disciples... do not receive this full new covenant empowering for ministry until the day of Pentecost." This power also brings greater victory over sin and Satan.
- The constitution of a new community, the New Testament Church, often depicted with temple imagery. Hermann Bavink wrote, "But it was only on the day of Pentecost that he made the church into his temple. A temple he perpetually sanctifies, builds up, and never again abandons." This new community transcends the boundaries of Israel and Palestine, becoming a global mission.
- Peterson stresses that Pentecost was Jesus' "unrepeatable redemptive historical act" where he, as mediator, publicly heralded the new covenant (already ratified), began the new creation, and gave the Spirit to his church, constituting it as a new community.

3. Jesus' Intercession as a Saving Work:

- Christ's saving work continues after his ascension with his heavenly ministry of intercession.
- This intercession is "the completion of Christ's priestly work," not his sacrificial work which was "forever finished on the cross."
- Jesus' intercession saves us because:
- It guarantees our final salvation through his "continual and effective intercession for his people."
- It is "one means by which God enables his people to continue in faith and obedience," aligning with God's plan for the perseverance of the elect (Romans 8:29-30).
- Christ's intercession is described as "priestly, it is continual, it is effective, and it is particular." It involves both his prayer on our behalf (Romans 8:34) and his presentation of his sacrifice to the Father (Hebrews 7:25).

- Hebrews 7:25 states that because Jesus "lives forever as the risen now ascended seated and interceding... he lives forever to make intercession for his people, thereby assuring us of eternal salvation."

4. Christ's Second Coming as the Culmination of His Saving Work:

- The second coming is presented as the point where Christ "brings the final application of his saving work" accomplished in his death and resurrection.
- Quoting Anthony Hoekema, "the expectation of Christ's second advent is the most important aspect of New Testament eschatology."
- Scripture highlights at least seven ways Jesus' second coming saves:
- **Being with Him and the Father:** Fulfilling Jesus' promise in John 14:3 to "come again and take you to myself, that where I am, you may be also." This includes resurrected believers as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.
- **Bringing Him Glory:** Through the transformation of our "lowly body to be like His glorious body" (Philippians 3:20-21) and our appearing with Him in glory (Colossians 3:4).
- **Bringing Eternal Life:** Evidenced in the sheep and goats passage (Matthew 25:31-46) where the righteous enter "eternal life." Peterson notes that the very last word in Jesus' teaching in this passage is "eternal life." Revelation 22:14 also links belief in Christ's sacrifice to the "Tree of Life."
- **Bringing Joy:** As the "blessed hope" that inspires joy in believers as they anticipate being with the Lord forever (Titus 2:13).
- **Bringing Deliverance:** From persecution (2 Thessalonians 1:6-8) and from eternal punishment (1 Thessalonians 1:10).
- **Bringing the Kingdom and Our Inheritance:** The righteous will "inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34), an inheritance that encompasses the Holy Trinity and the new heaven and new earth.
- **Bringing Cosmic Restoration:** Fulfilling Old Testament prophecies (Acts 3:20-21, Isaiah 65:17, 66:22-23) resulting in the new heavens and new earth.

5. The Importance of Interpreting God's Saving Events:

- Peterson emphasizes that "events are not self-interpreting, not even God's events." He uses the example of the reactions to Jesus' crucifixion to illustrate this point.
- The New Testament's major purpose is to interpret these saving events of Christ and apply them to God's people.
- God uses "many pictures" to interpret the work of Jesus, and Peterson will explore six major pictures.

6. Introduction to the Six Pictures of Christ's Saving Work:

- These pictures all convey the same fundamental truth: humanity was in serious trouble, God loved us in his Son, and Jesus rescues us from our sins in a beautiful way.
- The six major pictures are:
- **Substitution:** Jesus paying the penalty for his people.
- **Victory:** Christ overcoming our foes.
- **Sacrifice:** Jesus as both priest and sacrifice, offering himself for purification.
- **Restoration (New Creation):** Jesus restoring what was lost in Adam.
- **Redemption:** Jesus setting the captives free.
- **Reconciliation:** Jesus making peace between those alienated and God.

7. Detailed Examination of the Picture of Reconciliation (Part 1):

- Reconciliation is a picture drawn from the realm of personal relations, dealing with enmity and friendship.
- **Definition:** Paul defines reconciliation as "peacemaking or making peace" (Colossians 1:19-20: "making peace by the blood of his cross").
- **The Need for Reconciliation:** Broken relations and fractured relationships. Romans 5:10 states, "We were enemies of God," and Colossians 1:21 says we were "alienated and hostile in our minds to God."
- **The Initiator and the Goal of Reconciliation:** God, the offended party, takes the initiative in reconciliation. As Stanley Porter notes, "Paul is the first attested Greek

author to speak of the offended party, God, initiating reconciliation using the active voice of the verb."

- The initiator is sometimes the Father (2 Corinthians 5:18-19, Colossians 1:20) and sometimes the Son (Ephesians 2:14-16).
- God is not only the initiator but also the goal. We are reconciled *to God* (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). Scripture never explicitly says God is reconciled to us.
- **The Mediator of Reconciliation:** Jesus Christ is the mediator, accomplished "through," "by," or "in" him (Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:13, 2 Corinthians 5:18, Colossians 1:19-20). His person and work are inseparable in reconciliation.
- **The Focus of Reconciliation:** The atonement, specifically the death of Christ on the cross (Romans 5:10, Ephesians 2:16, Colossians 1:20, 22). While Romans 5:10 includes the resurrection, it's a mistake to divide Christ's saving work based on this text; his death and resurrection are inseparable.
- **Scope of Reconciliation:** Operates on individual, corporate, and cosmic levels.
- **Individual:** Brings sinners into God's family.
- **Corporate:** Makes peace between God and groups, forming churches. Graham Cole: "Enmity gives way to embrace."
- **Cosmic:** Unites all things in Christ, "things in heaven and things on earth" (Ephesians 1:10, Colossians 1:19-20), bringing harmony and involving the subjugation of powers and the unification of the church. This is not universalism.
- **Aspects of Reconciliation: Objective:** Christ's unique accomplishment of reconciliation on the cross and in the empty tomb.
- **Subjective:** Christian preaching that announces this reconciling atonement and the need for belief (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).
- **Is God Reconciled Too?** While Scripture doesn't explicitly state God was reconciled to us, many theologians believe it is implied. Our sin constitutes a barrier on God's side due to his holy and righteous wrath. John Stott notes that the verb "to reconcile" in the New Testament always has God as the subject or humans as the object, never the other way around. However, this doesn't mean the barrier was solely on our side. Doug Moo suggests that the enmity includes both human hostility towards God and God's just hostility towards us. Reconciliation changes this status from enemies to children of God (Romans 8:14-

17). Peterson concludes that "God reconciles God" mysteriously, as Leon Morris states, our understanding of God reconciling himself to us is only partial. God's reconciling us is a "reflex action to his simultaneous but logically prior reconciliation of himself to us," even though the Bible doesn't explicitly state the latter.

Conclusion:

Session 14 of Dr. Peterson's teaching provides a comprehensive overview of three essential results of Christ's saving work: Pentecost, Jesus's intercession, and the Second Coming. It also introduces the concept of using "pictures" to understand this work, beginning with a detailed examination of Reconciliation. The session emphasizes the transformative power of Christ's death and resurrection and their ongoing impact on believers and the cosmos. The discussion on reconciliation highlights God's initiative in restoring broken relations and the multifaceted nature of this saving act.

4. Study Guide: Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 14, Essential Results, Part 3, 6 Pictures of Christ's Saving Works

Christ's Saving Work: A Study Guide

Quiz

1. According to Dr. Peterson, how is Pentecost considered the work of Jesus?
2. Explain the nuance in John 7:39 regarding the Holy Spirit not yet being given.
3. What are at least two ways the bestowal of the Spirit at Pentecost empowers believers?
4. Describe how Christ's ascension relates to his ministry of intercession.
5. Why is Christ's intercession considered a necessary aspect of our final salvation, even after his death and resurrection?
6. What is the most important aspect of New Testament eschatology according to Anthony Hoekema?
7. Name three specific ways in which Jesus' second coming saves believers.
8. According to the lecture, what are the two inseparable aspects of reconciliation discussed by Paul?
9. Explain why Dr. Peterson emphasizes that Scripture does not explicitly state that God is reconciled to us.
10. How does Leon Morris explain the concept of God being "reconciled"?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Dr. Peterson states that just as Jesus died and rose, he and the Father poured out the Spirit at Pentecost. He considers it a work of Jesus in which the new covenant was publicly announced, the new creation proclaimed, and the Spirit bestowed on the new community.
2. John 7:39 doesn't mean the Holy Spirit didn't exist before Jesus' glorification, as the Spirit worked previously. Instead, it points to the reality that Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to the people of God in a new and powerful manner on the day of Pentecost.

3. The bestowal of the Spirit at Pentecost gives believers new power for witness and ministry, granting them greater effectiveness as seen in Acts and Ephesians. It also provides much greater power for victory over the influence of sin and over Satan and demonic forces.
4. Christ's ascension is described as his transition from his earthly ministry to his heavenly one. Upon ascending to heaven and sitting at the right hand of God, he begins his ongoing heavenly ministry of intercession for his people.
5. Christ's intercession is the completion of his priestly work, even though his sacrificial work was finished on the cross. It is a means by which God enables believers to continue in faith and obedience, guaranteeing their final salvation by addressing the multifaceted problem of sin.
6. According to Anthony Hoekema, the expectation of Christ's second advent is the most important aspect of New Testament eschatology, dominating the faith of the New Testament church and urging believers to live in readiness for his return.
7. Jesus' second coming saves by bringing believers to be with Him and the Father, transforming our lowly bodies into His glorious body, and ushering in eternal life. It also brings joy through the blessed hope of being with the Lord forever and deliverance from persecution and eternal punishment.
8. The two inseparable aspects of reconciliation are Christ's unique accomplishment of reconciliation on the cross and in the empty tomb (the objective aspect) and the Christian preaching that announces this reconciling atonement, which requires belief for salvation (the subjective aspect).
9. Dr. Peterson highlights that while he believes it is implied and means that God was reconciled, Scripture never explicitly uses the phrase "God is reconciled to us." His theological method prioritizes what the Bible directly states.
10. Leon Morris explains that when we say God is reconciled to man, it doesn't mean God's attitude fundamentally changed due to imperfections. Rather, it's our way of expressing that while God strongly opposes sin and brings condemnation, reconciliation through Christ removes that condemnation, and God now views humanity as objects of his love and blessing.

Essay Format Questions

1. Discuss the significance of Pentecost as a saving event in relation to Christ's death and resurrection, elaborating on its impact on believers and the formation of the church.
2. Analyze the multifaceted nature of Christ's saving work by explaining the interconnectedness and necessity of his ascension, session, intercession, and second coming for the complete salvation of believers.
3. Evaluate the claim that the expectation of Christ's second coming is the most important aspect of New Testament eschatology, providing scriptural support and considering its implications for Christian living.
4. Compare and contrast the objective and subjective aspects of reconciliation, explaining how both are essential for understanding the full scope of Christ's work in restoring the relationship between God and humanity.
5. Explore the nuanced understanding of God's reconciliation in light of human sin and God's holy nature, addressing why Scripture focuses on humanity being reconciled to God and how theologians interpret the reciprocal implications.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Ascension:** Jesus Christ's bodily going up into heaven forty days after his resurrection (Acts 1:9-11).
- **Atonement:** The work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation and reconcile us to God.
- **Christology:** The branch of Christian theology concerned with the person and nature of Jesus Christ.
- **Consummation:** The final completion of God's saving plan for creation and humanity, often associated with Christ's second coming and the establishment of the new heavens and new earth.
- **Covenant (New Covenant):** The new relationship between God and humanity established through Jesus Christ, replacing the Old Covenant and characterized by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and forgiveness of sins.

- **Eschatology:** The branch of theology concerned with the end times, including Christ's second coming, the resurrection of the dead, judgment, heaven, and hell.
- **Exaltation:** The raising of Jesus Christ to the highest place of honor and authority, encompassing his resurrection, ascension, and session at the right hand of God.
- **Glorification (of Jesus):** Often referring to Jesus' resurrection and ascension, marking his victory over sin and death and his return to heavenly glory.
- **Intercession:** The ongoing work of Jesus Christ in heaven, where he prays to the Father on behalf of believers and presents his sacrifice as a continual plea for their salvation.
- **Justification:** God's act of declaring sinners righteous in his sight through faith in Jesus Christ, imputing Christ's righteousness to them and forgiving their sins.
- **Mediator:** One who stands between two parties to reconcile them. Jesus Christ is the sole mediator between God and humanity (1 Timothy 2:5).
- **Pentecost:** The day fifty days after Passover (and ten days after Jesus' ascension) when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples in Jerusalem (Acts 2), marking the birth of the church.
- **Reconciliation:** The restoration of friendly relations between estranged parties. In theology, it refers to the act by which God restores his relationship with sinful humanity through Christ's atoning work.
- **Redemptive History:** The unfolding story of God's saving work in the world, from creation to the final consummation.
- **Resurrection:** Jesus Christ's bodily rising from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion, demonstrating his victory over sin and death.
- **Second Coming (Second Advent):** The future, visible return of Jesus Christ to earth in glory and power to judge the living and the dead and to establish his eternal kingdom.
- **Session (of Christ):** Christ's sitting down at the right hand of God the Father in heaven after his ascension, signifying his completed work and his present reign.
- **Temple Imagery (of the Church):** The biblical metaphor describing the church as God's dwelling place through the Holy Spirit, similar to the Old Testament temple.

5. FAQs on Peterson, Christ's Saving Work, Session 14, Essential Results, Part 3, 6 Pictures of Christ's Saving Works, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: Christ's Saving Work

1. What are the central saving events of Jesus Christ, and what are some of their essential results? The central saving events of Jesus Christ are his death and resurrection. These unique events have profound and necessary results for believers, including his ascension, session at God's right hand, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, his ongoing heavenly intercession, and his future second coming. These are often understood as distinct but interconnected aspects of his saving work.

2. What was the significance of Pentecost in relation to Christ's saving work and the Holy Spirit? Pentecost was a pivotal moment when the risen and exalted Christ, together with the Father, poured out the Holy Spirit in a new and powerful way. It marked the public announcement of the new covenant, the proclamation of the new creation, and the bestowal of the Spirit on the new community, the Church. While the Holy Spirit was active before Pentecost, this event signified a fuller and grander work of salvation, with believers now indwelt by the Spirit of the ascended Christ, leading to new power for witness, victory over sin and Satan, and the constitution of the church as God's temple.

3. How does Jesus Christ's heavenly intercession contribute to the salvation of believers? Jesus' ascension to heaven and session at the right hand of God marks the beginning of his heavenly ministry of intercession. This intercession is the completion of his priestly work, not his sacrificial work which was finished on the cross. Through his continual and effective intercession, Christ guarantees the final salvation of his people and provides a means by which God enables believers to persevere in faith and obedience. It involves his ongoing prayer on our behalf and the perpetual presentation of his sacrifice to the Father.

4. In what ways does the second coming of Christ contribute to the completion of his saving work? The second coming of Christ is the future culmination of his saving work, triggering the final outworking of God's saving purposes. It will result in believers being with Christ and the Father, Christ receiving glory, the bestowal of eternal life, deliverance from persecution and eternal punishment, the inheritance of the kingdom, and cosmic restoration, including the new heavens and new earth. This event marks the ultimate

application and realization of the salvation accomplished through his death and resurrection.

5. The text discusses "six pictures of Christ's saving work." What are they, and what do they generally represent? The six major pictures used to interpret Christ's saving work are: * **Substitution:** Jesus paying the penalty for his people's sins. * **Victory:** Christ overcoming our enemies and leading us to triumph. * **Sacrifice:** Jesus, as both priest and sacrifice, offering himself for our purification. * **Restoration:** Christ, as the second Adam, reversing the effects of Adam's sin and bringing life. * **Redemption:** Jesus setting captives free through his death and resurrection. * **Reconciliation:** Christ making peace between alienated humanity and God.

These pictures collectively illustrate the multifaceted nature of our salvation and the profound love of God in rescuing us from our sins.

6. What is the picture of "reconciliation" as it relates to Christ's saving work?

Reconciliation, drawn from the realm of personal relations, describes how Christ makes peace between God and humanity who were once enemies due to sin. In this picture, God, the offended party, takes the initiative through Christ to reconcile humanity to himself. This involves the removal of enmity and the restoration of a relationship of friendship. The focus is on the atonement achieved through Christ's death on the cross, although his resurrection is also significant.

7. Who initiates and benefits from the reconciliation described in the text? According to the text, God, the offended party, takes the initiative in reconciliation through Jesus Christ. The benefit of this reconciliation is for humanity, who were alienated and hostile to God because of their sins. Through Christ's reconciling work, believers move from being enemies of God to becoming his children, experiencing peace with him.

8. Does the concept of reconciliation imply that God also needed to be reconciled?

While Scripture doesn't explicitly state that God was reconciled to humanity, the text suggests that the barrier of enmity existed on both sides, due to human sin and God's righteous wrath against that sin. Therefore, Christ's work of reconciliation mysteriously affected God himself, removing his holy and righteous wrath towards humanity and allowing him to look upon believers as objects of his love and blessing. This understanding acknowledges the comprehensive impact of sin on the relationship between God and humanity, requiring a divine initiative to restore peace.