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# Mission of God – Christ: Victor or Redeemer?

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## I. How Should We View Christ's Death?

- “According to Paul, *God is on a mission to liberate humanity*—and indeed the entire cosmos—from the powers of Sin and Death...through the...death & resurrection of His Son...” [Michael J. Gorman, *Becoming the Gospel*, p. 24]
- A. Redemption (Eph. 1:7) – Sacrifice/Penal Substitution
  - “I passed on to you as most important...that *Christ died for our sins* according to the Scriptures.” (1 Cor. 15:3)
  - “In [Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses...” (Eph. 1:7)
    1. Sacrifice/substitution (1 Cor. 15:3; Jn. 1:29; Lev. 16:21-22)
      - Substitution: “Christ’s death [was] in our place, instead of us...Christ did something, underwent something, so we did not—and never will—have to...One can have substitution without that being *penal* substitution, i.e., without *punishment* for sins.” –Simon Gathercole
      - 2. Penal Substitutionary Atonement (Col. 2:13-15) –Jesus substitutes (*punished*) for sinners, satisfying God’s justice
        - “The word ‘penal’...express[es] that Christ bore a *penalty* when He died, while...‘substitutionary’ is used to speak of the exchange of position when Christ died for mankind.” –John M. Brown
        - “I define Penal Substitution as...The Father, because of his love for human[s]...sent his Son (who offered himself... gladly) to satisfy *God’s justice*, so that Christ took the place of sinners. The *punishment*...we deserved was laid on Jesus Christ instead of us...” –Tom Schreiner
- B. Victory (Col. 2:15; Eph. 1:20-22) – Christ defeats the evil powers
  - At “the cross [God] disarmed the rulers & authorities & disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them” (Col. 2:15)

## C. Is Christ Redeemer or Victor?

## D. Paul emphasizes both (Col. 2:13-15, 20)

- “You...were dead in your trespasses...God made [you] alive together with [Christ], having forgiven us all our trespasses by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers & authorities & put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in [Christ].” (Col. 2:13-15 ESV)

## II. The Narrative Arc of Scripture Emphasizes God’s Mission & Warfare

## A. The narrative arc of Scripture (Gen. 3:15; Rev. 12:11)

- God told the serpent: “I will put hostility between you & the woman, & between your offspring & her offspring. He will strike your head, & you will strike his heel.” (Gen. 3:15)
- “They [brothers & sisters] conquered him [the ancient serpent...the devil, Satan] by the blood of the Lamb & by the word of their testimony; for they did not love their lives to the point of death.” (Rev. 12:11)

## B. The narrative arc of Christ’s ministry

## 1. The conflict started early &amp; continued (Matt. 2:16; Lk. 4:1-13)

– Herod “gave orders to massacre all the boys in & around Bethlehem...” (Mt. 2:16)

## 2. Jesus stared down the evil forces

## 3. The ‘storm cloud of evil,’ forms (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; Lk. 22:53)

– “Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be cast out...The ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me.” (Jn. 12:31; 14:30)

## 4. Ultimate victory at the cross (Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14-15; Eph. 1:20b-22a)

– “Since the children shared in flesh & blood, Jesus shared in these, so that through his death he might destroy the one holding the power of death—i.e., the devil, & free those...held in slavery all their lives...” (Heb. 2:14-15)

## C. The narrative arc of Ephesians (Eph. 1:20-23; 4:8-11; 6:10-17)

## III. How Do We Apply Redeemer & Victor?

## A. Redeemer (Rom. 8:1, 3 &amp; Rev. 12:11)

- “There is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus...**3** For...God...condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering.” (Rom. 8:1, 3)

## B. Victor (Eph. 6:12-17; 1 Jn. 3:8)

- “The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the devil’s works.” (1 Jn. 3:8b)

## C. Satan is not as he is caricatured to be

## D. The evil powers are real, dangerous &amp; powerful

## E. Humans are no match for the evil powers

## F. We stand (Eph. 6:11, 14)

- “Put on the full armor of God so...you can *stand* against the devil’s schemes...Take up God’s full armor, so...you may be able to resist in the evil day, & having prepared everything, to *take your stand*. **14 Stand**, therefore...” (Eph. 6:11-14)

## G. We reach out (Deut. 32:8; Matt. 28:19)

- “When the Most High gave...the nations their [land], when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the *sons of God*. **9** But the Lord’s portion is his people, [Israel].” (Dt. 32:8 ESV)
- “All authority has been given to me in heaven & on earth. **19** Go, therefore, & make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them...” (Mt. 28:18-20)