



GATHERED

The Empowered Presence of God's People

TEACHER NOTES & DISCUSSION GUIDE

SESSION THREE: The Savior's Passion

A Study on the Church by



SMYRNAFIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH



Session Three

The Savior's Passion

Introduction

Failure is the story of man. Given enough time, everything topples over. And while we can see that our progress has brought us a long way, it is also true that no good thing ever truly lasts.

- Kingdoms rise and fall.
- Wealth is gained and lost.
- Status is built and destroyed.
- Families unite and splinter.

We recently sent men into space and are looking to go back to the moon as well as Mars, but we also struggle to hold our world together in the midst of a simple virus. *We are still trying to build a tower in Babylon.*

- A. As God's creatures, the whole human race is his.
 1. But among all the nations there is a chosen people.
 2. **Deuteronomy 7**
 - a) God will give them a land to possess (v.1)
 - b) God will utterly destroy the nations
 - (1) No covenant, no mercy, no grafting in; Devoting their culture, wealth, and objects of worship to destruction (v.2-3)
 - (2) Pestilence (v.20), disease (v.15), political turmoil (v.24), barrenness (v.14), famine (v.13), economic failure (v.13), mental and ideological confusion (v.23) will be their reality as they are destroyed.
 - (3)
 - c) God has made them a holy people, a people of treasured possession (v.6)
 - d) God's people shall not be afraid.
 - (1) God will remind them of his great works and provision (v.18-19)
 - (2) **Because God is in their midst, a great and awesome God.** (v.21)
 - e) But this wasn't what happened in Israel. They were unfaithful.
 - (1) God's people are not to be consumed with their wealth, culture, or religion or God will destroy them as well (v.3-4;25-26).
 - B. But his chosen people are stained with sin.
 1. Israel proves faithless to God.
 - a) Isaiah 1:18 - "though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."
 - b) Ezekiel 36
 - (1) Israel defiled - "Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their own land, they defiled it by their ways and their deeds." (v.17)
 - (2) **Ezekiel 36:23-27** "And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and *which you have profaned among them.* And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. *I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*"
 - c) *How does God clean what is stained by sin?*
 - C. We only know the fulfillment of the promises of God in Jesus Christ the Savior.
 1. He is the promised Messiah

2. Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

I. Bought by Christ

- A. Jesus substituted his own life for his church.
 1. Our sin gives Satan a legal claim over us.
 - a) **Romans 6:23** - “wages of sin is death”
 2. Sin requires death
 - a) **Hebrews 9:22** - “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin
 3. Therefore Jesus offered himself as a substitute for us.”
 - a) **2 Corinthians 5:22** - He who knew no sin became sin on our behalf.
 - b) Romans 5:6 “For while we were still helpless at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly.”
- B. Jesus paid the ransom price of death for his church.
 1. Our sin held us, so Christ paid the penalty in order to set us free.
 - a) **Mark 10:45** “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to *give His life a ransom for many.*”
 2. We were *bought with a price.*
 - a) **1 Corinthians 6:20 & 7:23** -
 - (1) we were *bought with a price* (you are not your own)
 - (2) you were *bought with a price* (don’t be a slave to man)
- C. Jesus now lays sole claim to his church.
 1. **Acts 20:28** - the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood
 2. **Titus 2:14 & 1 Peter 2:9** - a people for his own *possession*
 - a) “*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*”
- D. The blood of Jesus covers us and transfers us from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light.

II. Bound to Christ

- A. Jesus brings his church into perfect unity with himself.
 1. **John 15:4** - *abide in me* and I in you
 2. **John 17:21** - that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also *may be in us* (so that the world may believe)
 3. **1 Corinthians 6:17** - but he that is *joined to the Lord* becomes *one spirit with him.*
- B. Jesus cannot separate himself from his church.
 1. The Body of Christ - **1 Corinthians 12:27** “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”
 - a) *Nourished and cherished*
 - (1) **Ephesians 5:29** “For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church”
 2. The Bride of Christ - **Revelation 21:9** “Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”
 - a) *Loved and cleansed*
 - (1) **Ephesians 5:25-27** “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, **26**that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27**so that he might present the



church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”

3. Family of God - **2 Corinthians 6:18** “and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

a) *Heirs of the kingdom*

- (1) **Romans 6:16-17** “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”

C. *Our union with Christ gives us eternal right standing with the Father.*

III. Built in Christ

A. A temple for God’s presence

1. **Ephesians 2:22** “In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
2. **1 Peter 2:5** “you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”
3. **1 Corinthians 6:19** “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?”

B. A holy people for God’s praise

1. **Romans 9:22-23** “What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, **23** in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory”

C. A mature people for his purpose

1. **Ephesians 4:11-13** “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds^c and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”

D. *The church is the embodied presence of Christ upon the earth.*

Conclusion

Being purchased, we belong to someone other than ourselves.

Being bound, we are controlled by someone other than ourselves.

Being built, we are designed by someone other than ourselves.

There has only ever been one perfect man - the man Christ Jesus. He did not fail the Father, he will not fail his bride.

As the nations are destroyed around us,
As the temples of the gods fall into ruin,
As the world of man continues to lay brick upon brick of their doomed tower to heaven,

The church will glory in her Bridegroom
The church will rest in her Savior
The church will find blessing and peace in her Lord.



Session Three

Discussion Guide

USE AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE OF THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE AS YOU LIKE.

Introduction

How do failures effect our lives? Is the world getting better?

How does Deuteronomy 7 parallel our world today? What does it teach God's people on why they should not be afraid?

I. Bought by Christ

What does it mean to be purchased by Christ? With what did he purchase us with? From whom? Why does God have to buy what he created?

How should we live in light of the fact that Jesus bought us?

What does 1 Corinthians 6:20 say about the relationship of Christ's ownership of us and our ability to live how we want?

What does the description "a people for his own possession" mean in 1 Peter 2:19?

II. Bound to Christ

In John 17:21 Jesus asks the Father to make us one with God. To what extent are we one with God?

In the lesson, Adam discusses how the church is the body and bride of Christ. What does this teach us about our relationship to Jesus?

In Ephesians 5:25-27 one of the main purposes of Jesus' work in our lives is to make us holy. How does this reality inform the way we should live our lives?

In Romans 6:16-17 we are described as God's children who will inherit his kingdom. How does this make us different than the world? What practical ways does this difference manifest itself in our lives.

III. Built in Christ

If the temple is the place where God's glory dwells and his holiness is on display, what does that mean for us if we are now a temple for the Holy Spirit?

What kind of sacrifices are being made in the temple today? (1 Peter 2:5)

Do we take our relationship to God seriously enough? Too seriously?

To what end are we striving in our work of building up the body of Christ? (Ephesians 4:13)