

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

The Christus Victor Paradigm of the First Century (Handout 3)

***Acquit**—free someone from a criminal charge by a verdict of not guilty. (A Verdict of Innocence)

***Justify**—To declare “not guilty”.

Luke 23.34—But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

Hebrews 2.14—Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.

John 13.1—Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

2Corinthians 5.14—For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.

***Romans 5.18**—It follows, then, that as the result of one misdeed was condemnation for all people, so the result of one righteous act is acquittal and life for all.

Colossians 2:13-15—He forgave us all our sins. He has canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. There He disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Genesis 3.14, 15— So the LORD God said to the serpent, “. . . He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Luke 11.21-22—“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.”

Colossians 1.13—For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

***Romans 3.25-26**—He did this [the Cross] to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5.14-16—For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died . . . So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.

Hebrews 9.14—How much more, then, will the blood of Christ . . . cleanse

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”— John 10.10

*All texts quoted from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.

our consciences from acts that produce death, so that we may serve the living God!

Romans 8.31-39 (REB)—With all this in mind, what are we to say? If God is on our side, who is against us? He did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all; how can he fail to lavish every other gift upon us? Who will bring a charge against those whom God has chosen? Not God, who acquits! Who will pronounce judgement? Not Christ, who died, or rather rose again; not Christ, who is at God’s right hand and pleads our cause! Then what can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or hardship? Can persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger, or sword? ‘We are being done to death for your sake all day long,’ as scripture says; ‘we have been treated like sheep for slaughter’—and yet, throughout it all, overwhelming victory is ours through him who loved us. For I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life, in the realm of spirits or superhuman powers, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths—nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Mark 10.45—For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Romans 3.23,24 (NRSV)—Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified (acquitted) by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

***1Timothy 4.10**—For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

1John 2.1,2—But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1John 4.10—In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

John 17.26—I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

1John 4.8—Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1John 4.19—We love because he first loved us.

1John 4.12—No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

John 10.10—The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

