

CLC Host's Personal Meeting Room

Overview

This Bible study session focused on the theological concept of Jesus Christ as the Passover lamb and the significance of His sacrificial death. The group explored how Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies, particularly examining the connection between the Passover in Exodus and Christ's redemptive work on the cross. The discussion emphasized the doctrine of imputation, Christ's dual nature as fully God and fully man, and believers' responsibility to live transformed lives.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- The hypostatic union: Jesus as fully God and fully man
- The doctrine of imputation: Christ taking our sin and giving us His righteousness
- Jesus as the Passover lamb: fulfilling Old Testament types and shadows
- Kenosis: Christ's self-emptying while maintaining His deity
- Reconciliation: Restoration of relationship between God and humanity

Important Questions Raised:

- How could God become man without losing His divine nature?
- Why was Jesus' death necessary for salvation?
- How does the Old Testament Passover prefigure Christ's sacrifice?
- What is our responsibility as believers after salvation?
- How do we reconcile Jesus' humanity with His divinity?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Jesus Christ possesses two natures - fully divine and fully human - united in one person
- Christ was without sin (impeccable) though tempted in every way
- Jesus' death was voluntary, purposeful, and prophesied throughout Scripture

- The blood of Jesus provides salvation just as the blood on doorposts protected Israelites during Passover
- Believers are reconciled to God through Christ's sacrificial death
- Christians have a responsibility to "die to self" daily and grow in Christlikeness

Topic 1: The Dual Nature of Christ

Jesus Christ possesses both divine and human natures, a concept theologians call the hypostatic union. As fully God, He existed before creation and was equal with the Father in every divine perfection. As fully human, He had a physical body and experienced human emotions, growth, and limitations. The group discussed Philippians 2:6-8, highlighting that Jesus "emptied Himself" (kenosis) by taking the form of a servant. This emptying didn't mean He ceased being God, but rather that He chose not to independently exercise His divine attributes, submitting wholly to the Father. Unlike all other humans, Jesus was without sin (impeccable). His temptations were real, but He could not sin because of His divine nature. The study emphasized that Jesus' humanity was complete in every aspect except sin, making Him the perfect sacrifice.

Relevant Q&A

Question: If Jesus had no sinful nature and could not sin, then wasn't His temptation just a mockery?

Answer: He was not tested to see if He would sin; He was tested to prove He would not sin. The testing demonstrated His perfect obedience for our sake.

Question: Did Jesus empty Himself of deity?

Answer: No, He poured His deity into the form of a servant. He didn't stop being God but chose not to independently use His divine attributes.

Topic 2: Christ's Death and Its Purpose

The study examined how Jesus' death on the cross was the fulfillment of His mission. His life was given, not taken; He had authority to lay it down and take it up again (John 10:17-18). The group discussed how Jesus' death was prophesied throughout the Old Testament, particularly in Isaiah 53 and Psalm 16. Jesus came into the world specifically to die as a sacrifice for sin, becoming the perfect Passover lamb. The participants explored Exodus 11-12, drawing parallels between the Passover lamb's blood protecting Israelites from death and Christ's blood saving believers from spiritual death. Just as the Israelites needed to apply the blood to their doorposts, people today must personally apply Christ's sacrifice to their lives through faith. The death of Christ accomplished reconciliation between God and humanity, restoring the relationship broken by sin and putting believers in right standing with God.

Relevant Q&A

Question: Why is Jesus called our Passover?

Answer: Just as the blood of the Passover lamb caused death to "pass over" the Israelites in Egypt, Jesus' blood causes judgment to pass over those who believe in Him. He is the fulfillment of what the Passover symbolized.

Question: Did the blood save both Jews and non-Jews?

Answer: Yes, the blood saves everyone who applies it by faith. There is no exception for being Jewish; everyone needs the blood of Christ.

Topic 3: Christian Responsibility and Growth

The study emphasized that salvation is not just about being forgiven but also about living transformed lives. Believers have a responsibility to "die to self" daily, taking up their cross and following Christ. The participants discussed how this involves putting off old sinful patterns and growing in Christlikeness. While salvation is secure and there is no condemnation for those in Christ, there are still consequences for sin in believers' lives. The group explored how sanctification is a process - like residue from past sins that takes time to fully disappear, believers gradually become more like Christ as they submit to Him. The Holy Spirit reveals areas that need to change, and Christians must be willing to let go of sinful attitudes and behaviors. The study concluded that believers should not remain the same but should continually grow and change, becoming more like Christ each day.

Relevant Q&A

Question: If we're saved, why do we need to keep working on ourselves?

Answer: While salvation is secure, we have a responsibility to grow in Christ. Every relationship has roles and responsibilities, and our relationship with God requires us to actively participate in the sanctification process.

Question: What does it mean to take up your cross daily?

Answer: The cross represents death - specifically dying to self, to your own desires when they conflict with God's will. It means submitting to God's authority and allowing Him to transform you.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Continue reading and studying the current chapter, focusing on section 2C for next week
- Mark up and highlight Bible passages discussed in the study for better retention

- Spend time throughout the week (not just before the next meeting) reviewing the material
- Prepare to discuss the resurrection and ascension of Christ in the next session

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- Study Bibles mentioned: The Living Bible (for beginners), MacArthur Study Bible, Tony Evans Study Bible
- Isaiah 53: Prophecy about the suffering servant (Christ)
- Exodus 11-12: The Passover account
- Philippians 2:6-8: Christ's humility and incarnation
- John 17: Jesus' prayer before His crucifixion
- 2 Corinthians 5:21: The doctrine of imputation
- Hebrews 12:1: Laying aside weights and sin