





2018



SALVATION TODAY

2018

SEQUENCE

- Handing on the faith today
- Redemption in the Western Tradition
- The Search for Alternatives
- The Teaching of the Fourth Gospel
- Putting it all together
- Can this speak to us today?
- Prayer

HANDING ON THE FAITH

- Information
- Faith / Prayer
- Understanding
- What “happened” for us in Jesus?

REDEMPTION

- Anselm of Canterbury
- Satisfaction "theory"
- Became widespread in the West
- Present in our liturgy

PREFACE FOR PALM SUNDAY

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For, though innocent, he suffered willingly for
sinners and accepted unjust condemnation to save
the guilty. His Death has washed away our sins,
and his Resurrection has purchased our
justification.

REDEMPTION

- Adam, a real person and “head”, sinned
- God was offended and required satisfaction
- No mere human could make up the offence
- The need for a God-Man (“Cur Deus

REDEMPTION

- Jesus was punished for our sins
- God's honour was restored
- God was then able to be merciful

REDEMPTION



REDEMPTION

- Depends on the historicity of Genesis 2-3
- Depends on a feudal idea of God (offence/honour)
- Redemption (buying back) requires a price (punishment)
- Redemption is complete with the

REDEMPTION

- The resurrection has no place (the best miracle etc.)
- It has no connection with the life and ministry of Jesus
- The picture of God who cannot be merciful until he receives legal satisfaction is unappealing and unconvincing

SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVES

- Taking seriously evil, sin and death
- Joining up the incarnation, ministry, teaching and the events of salvation
- Offering a consistent picture of

SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVES

- Uniting the death and the resurrection as “constitutive” of salvation
- Rooted in the teaching of the New Testament
- Rooted in Jesus’ own

SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVES

- Historical Jesus
- Paul's letters
- The Gospel of John
- The Letter to the Hebrews

FOURTH GOSPEL

- Evil, death and sin
- Healing
- Love
- New creation
- Liberation
- Service
- The Holy Spirit, the advocate

EVIL, DEATH AND SIN

- No *exorcisms* in the Fourth Gospel, but the devil is mentioned: Judas (6:70; 13:2; 13:27 "Satan"); the Jews (8:44)

John 8:44 You people are from your father the **devil**, and you want to do what your father desires. He was a **murderer** from the beginning, and does not uphold the truth, because there is **no truth** in him. Whenever he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, because he is a **liar** and the father of lies.

EVIL, DEATH AND SIN

- No specific *moral sins*, as such, in the Fourth Gospel but "sin", "sins" and "sinners" are present: John 1:29; 8:21, 24, 34, 46; 9:34, 41; 15:22, 24; 16:8-9; 19:11; 20:23

John 1:29 On the next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the **sin** of the world!

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, "I tell you the solemn truth, everyone who practices **sin** is a *slave* of sin.

John 16:8 And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong concerning **sin** and righteousness and judgment- 9 concerning **sin**, because they do not believe in me;

EVIL, DEATH AND SIN

- The verb “to sin” is minimally represented: John 5:14; [8:11]; 9:2–3, in connection with related healings.

John 5:14 After this Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “Look, you have become well. Don’t **sin** any more, lest anything worse happen to you.”

John 9:2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who **committed the sin** that caused him to be born blind, this man or his parents?” 3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents **sinned**, but he was born blind so that the acts of God may be revealed through what happens to him.

EVIL, DEATH AND SIN

- Judgment (John 3:19; 5:22, 24, 27, 29-30; 7:24; 8:16; 12:31; 16:8, 11) and “to judge” (John 3:17-18; 5:22, 30; 7:24, 51; 8:15-16, 26, 50; 12:47-48; 16:11; 18:31) are fully present.

John 3:19 Now this is the basis for **judging**: that the light has come into the world and people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil.

John 12:31 Now is the **judgment** of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

John 12:47 If anyone hears my words and does not obey them, I do not **judge** him. For I have not come to **judge** the world, but to save the world. 48 The one who rejects me and does not accept my words has a **judge**; the word I have spoken will **judge** him at the last day.

EVIL, DEATH AND SIN

- Death (John 5:24; 8:51-52; 11:4, 13; 12:33; 18:32; 21:19) and "to die" (John 4:47, 49; 6:49-50, 58; 8:21, 24, 52-53; 11:14, 16, 21, 25-26, 32, 37, 50-51; 12:24, 33; 18:14, 32; 19:7; 21:23)

John 5:24 "I tell you the solemn truth, the one who hears my message and believes the one who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned, but has crossed over from **death** to life.

John 4:49 "Sir," the official said to him, "come down before my child **dies**."

John 11:32 Now when Mary came to the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have **died**."

EVIL, DEATH AND SIN

- World (John 1:9-10, 29; 3:16-17, 19; 4:42; 6:14, 33, 51; 7:4, 7; 8:12, 23, 26; 9:5, 39; 10:36; 11:9, 27; 12:19, 25, 31, 46-47; 13:1; 14:17, 19, 22, 27, 30-31; 15:18-19; 16:8, 11, 20-21, 28, 33; 17:5-6, 9, 11, 13-16, 18, 21, 23-25; 18:20, 36-37; 21:25)

This immense reference to "*kosmos*" can be both neutral or even positive (the world into which the Word came) and quite negative (the opposition in the world to the Word).

The negative world: the realm of unbelief, the rejection of the truth of God. This is a perversion of creation, an inauthentic way of being human and a gross misunderstanding of who we are as human beings created by God. The temporal dualism of early Christianity is replaced by a cosmic dualism.

EVIL, DEATH AND SIN

- Darkness (John 1:5; 6:17; 8:12; 12:35, 46; 20:1) and night (John 3:2; 9:4; 11:10; 13:30; 19:39; 21:3)

John 1:5 And the light shines on in the **darkness**, but the **darkness** has not mastered it.

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke out again, "I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in **darkness**, but will have the light of life."

John 12:46 I have come as a light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in **darkness**.

John 9:4 We must perform the deeds of the one who sent me as long as it is daytime. **Night** is coming when no one can work.

John 13:30 Judas took the piece of bread and went out immediately. (Now it was **night**.)

EVIL, DEATH AND SIN

Summary:

- Devil, liar, murderer, Satan
- Sin, slavery, unbelief, judgment
- Death
- The world, as opposed to God
- Darkness

Salvation is *from all these things* and takes place in Jesus' lifting up on the cross.

HEALING

Jn 3:13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven—the Son of Man. **14** Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

John 3:16 For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through him.

HEALING

The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live." (**Num 21:5-9**)

HEALING

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be **lifted up**. (**John 3:14**)

Then Jesus said, "When you **lift up** the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and I do nothing on my own initiative, but I speak just what the Father taught me." (**John 8:28**)

"And I, when I am **lifted up** from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (**John 12:32**)

Then the crowd responded, "We have heard from the law that the Christ will remain forever. How can you say, 'The Son of Man must be **lifted up**'? Who is this Son of Man?" (**John 12:34**)

LOVE

John 13:1 Just before the Passover feast, Jesus knew that his time had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now loved them to the very end.

John 14:31 but I am doing just what the Father commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

LOVE

Jn 20:6 He saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, **7** and the face cloth, which had been around Jesus' head, not lying with the strips of linen cloth but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, came in, and he saw and believed.

John 11:35 Jesus wept. **36** Thus the people who had come to mourn said, "Look how much he loved him!"

NEW CREATION

So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come!

(2Corinthians 5:17)

For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that matters is a **new creation**! **(Galatians 6:15)**

NEW CREATION

John 1:1 **In the beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was fully God.

John 19:30 When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, "**It is completed!**" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 20:1 Now very early on the **first day of the week**, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance.

NEW CREATION


John 20:19 On the evening of that day, **the first day of the week**, the disciples had gathered together and locked the doors of the place because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.

John 20:22 And after he said this, **he breathed on them** and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

LIBERATION

- Passover - a feast of liberation
- Three Passovers in this Gospel
- Matthew / Mark / Luke:
Passover was Thursday night
- John: Passover was Friday
night

LIBERATION



John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared,
“Here is the **Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!

LIBERATION

John 2:13 The **Passover** of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

John 2:23 When he was in Jerusalem during the **Passover** festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing.

John 6:4 Now the **Passover**, the festival of the Jews, was near.

John 11:55 Now the **Passover** of the Jews was near, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the **Passover** to purify themselves.

John 12:1 Six days before the **Passover** Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

John 13:1 Now before the festival of the **Passover**, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

John 18:28 Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the **Passover**.

John 18:39 But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the **Passover**. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

John 19:14 Now it was the day of Preparation for the **Passover**; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!"

LIBERATION

John 19:13 When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. **14 Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon.** He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" **15** They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." **16** Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

LIBERATION

John 19:28 After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), "I am thirsty." **29** A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of **hyssop** and held it to his mouth. **30** When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

LIBERATION

John 19:31 Since it was the **day of Preparation**, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. **32** Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. **33** But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, **they did not break his legs. 34** Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.

SERVICE

John 13:1 Just before the Passover feast, Jesus knew that his time had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now loved them to the very end. **2** The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, that he should betray Jesus.

3 Because Jesus knew that the Father had handed all things over to him, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, **4** he got up from the meal, removed his outer clothes, took a towel and tied it around himself. **5** He poured water into the washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel he had wrapped around himself.

John 13:6 Then he came to Simon Peter. Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" **7** Jesus replied, "You do not understand what I am doing now, but you will understand after these things."

8 Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." **9** Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head!" **10** Jesus replied, "The one who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not every one of you." **11** (For Jesus knew the one who was going to betray him. For this reason he said, "Not every one of you is clean.")

John 13:12 So when Jesus had washed their feet and put his outer clothing back on, he took his place at the table again and said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you?" **13** You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and do so correctly, for that is what I am.

14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you too ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have given you an example—you should do just as I have done for you. **16** I tell you the solemn truth, the slave is not greater than his master, nor is the one who is sent as a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** If you understand these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

SERVICE

- **Mark 10:45** "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
- **John 12:26** If anyone wants to serve me, he must follow me, and where I am, my servant will be too. If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him.
- **John 13:12** So when Jesus had washed their feet and put his outer clothing back on, he took his place at the table again and said to them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? **13** You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and do so correctly, for that is what I am. **14** If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you too ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have given you an example—you should do just as I have done for you."

HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is referred to in four ways in this Gospel:

- Spirit is the power and character of God given to Jesus (1:32-33)
- Spirit is the divine presence in the new life of the believer (7:39; 20:22; cf. the conversation with the woman at the well)
- Spirit gives rise to a new birth (3:5-8; 6:63)
- The Spirit is the advocate (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7), the one "standing alongside" us

Key illustrations are on the next slide.

HOLY SPIRIT

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the solemn truth, unless a person is born of water and **spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the **Spirit** is **spirit**.

John 7:39 (Now he said this about the **Spirit**, whom those who believed in him were going to receive, for the **Spirit** had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 14:26 But the **Advocate**, the **Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and will cause you to remember everything I said to you.

John 20:22 And after he said this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the **Holy Spirit**.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

- *Saved from sin, death, evil, inauthentic lives*
- Healing
- Love
- New creation
- Passover
- Service
- *Salvation enacted through the gift of the Holy Spirit*

The creator God has healed humanity of death by sending his Son in an act of self-emptying and loving service, setting us free from the power of death and sin. God's loving therapy is a new creation, enacted in us by the Holy Spirit.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

- Jesus' gift was not up to God to offset his anger but down from God to reveal his love
- Revelation / disclosure of love is the key
- Jesus' lifting up heals humanity of the "disease" of death
- The core is God's breath-taking love, indicated by the washing of feet—so incredible is it hardly believable

CAN THIS SPEAK TO US TODAY?

- Rooted in the historical Jesus
- Death and resurrection are joined
- Jesus' costly obedience, death and resurrection show God reaching out to humanity
- Contemporary models: service, love, healing

CAN THIS SPEAK TO US TODAY?

- Saved from evil, sin, death, inauthentic lives
- Healing
- Love
- New creation
- Liberation
- Service
- Saved by the gift of the Holy Spirit
- *Fundamental frame: disclosure of God's love*



GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER

From the throne of grace, O God of mercy,
hear the devout prayer of your people.

As your Son is lifted high upon the cross, draw
into his exalted life all who are reborn in the
blood and water flowing from his opened side.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Passover
and our peace, who lives and reigns with you in
the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty
God, for ever and ever. Amen.