

John 14:6-7 | Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Acts 4:10-12 | let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

1 Timothy 2:5 | For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

The Only Redeemer of God’s Elect | Advent 2025

I’ve got some bad news. You’re not present enough. What I mean is you’re in a race constantly hurrying. This is causing you to constantly live in the future and your missing out on your life. You need to embrace the present, and open yourself up to the stillness of God in the present moment. You should figure that out.

Also, and I’m sorry to say this, you’re not optimized. You’re running a system of habits that are not optimized towards your health or prosperity. You’re not getting enough blue light in the morning and you’re getting too much blue light right before bed. These are throwing off your circadian rhythm. Likewise you’re probably not supplementing appropriately for your particular genome and you’re not eating enough Whole Foods which is disrupting your hormones.

Likewise your not making time for yourself to be present and optimized because you never learned to advocate for yourself. You’ve learned bad coping mechanisms which you needed for your emotional survival as a child but are no longer serving you. Therefore you’re living from a place of fear and in that place of fear your creating the very situations that you were trying to avoid in the first place. Until that’s processed and resolved, well, its not good.

Just one more thing you should be aware of in case you want to learn how to get out of this. You’re in an information silo that is preventing you from getting a grip on reality. And transportation is extremely expensive, so is shelter, and so is food. Gotta make sure those don’t slip or your not gonna have much space to figure out the problems above.

This Advent season we’re taking a look at Jesus, particularly sound doctrine regarding Jesus and we’re following that sound doctrine in an early part of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, questions 19-28. Now that those problems are top of mind you were probably thinking you needed a 17th century list of questions and answers from the middle of the English Civil War. And well, I’m glad we’re on the same page. The heart of our time will be an examination of the

offices which Christ performs on our behalf, these are the offices of a prophet a priest and king. So our next three Sundays will look at these three offices in order.

But before we look at the wonder of who Christ is, we have to look at why we need him so badly. There is a great trick of the world, to lay out our problems like I did above. And all of those problems come with attendant marching orders. But the truth is they are an invitation to a fruitless treadmill, because your problem is much worse.

The Christian story does not see the problems of man as mere illusions. It is not your attachment to the world or yourself that creates the illusion of problems. You have real problems. Man was created to live in an estate of righteousness, holiness, and glorious communion with God. But by Adam's sin all mankind fell into an estate of sin and misery.

1. Sin & Misery

WSC Question 19: What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?

A: All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

Three things which account for your miserable estate. 1. In what man has lost 2. In what man is brought under, 2. And in what man is liable to.

1. Here is the heart of the matter, by sin we've lost communion with God. I know this sounds so different than our problems might feel. But in our heart of hearts we know there is some relationship that should be there but isn't. *Gen 3:24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim's, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.* Your father is in your home, and you can't get there from here. We are meant to have joyful fellowship with God and in our sin we don't. From this initial brokenness all our problems flow.
2. The second aspect of our misery is what we have been brought under. We are brought under the wrath of God and his curse upon the world. Because our hearts have been darkened by sin, we barely even grasp the heart of the matter and so the wrath and curse are more salient to us than our broken relationship with God. This informs the list of problems above. We are under the wrath of God, which is described in Romans like this: *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (Romans 1:21, ESV)* Therefore we grope around among a cursed earth, which puts forward its thorns and thistles and economic disruption and teases you with technological ways of overcoming this despairing estate that leave you in fruitless toil. This is the state of our lives.
3. Finally we are made liable to all the miseries of this life, death, and the pains of hell forever. As we learned in Ecclesiastes, everything happens and it might happen to you.

Sickness, loss, despair, abandonment, divorce, everything happens. And then you die. And after death outside of God the pain continues for eternity in hell. Punished for our sins and our sinful estate.

So that's the problem. You can't more present your way out of this. There's no optimal protocol. You can't even be more religious to get out of this.

2. Did God leave all mankind to perish?

WSC Q: 20 Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

A: God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.

It is plain from an understanding of our sinful and miserable estate that we can't get ourselves out of it. We need to be saved. But would could that mean? How can we be saved from God's just response to our own sinful rebellion? God must do it.

Out of his mere good pleasure, here it in Ephesians *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, (Ephesians 1:4–5, ESV)*

Covenant is a name for the terms of the relationship. It was our covenant with God which was broken in the garden by our disobedience to him in Adam. But God establishes a new covenant, new terms of the relationship by which we are brought into an estate of salvation. This means that all of our sins will be removed from us, and all of the misery we are due in this life and the life to come are removed from us. We may be able to say, we have been saved. We are no longer estranged but reconciled.

But how are we brought into this new covenant, how can God accomplish a salvation on our behalf when we realize that only God can? It is by a redeemer. A redeemer is one who buys back. The redeemer pays the price on behalf of someone else. God accomplishes our salvation by paying the price due for our sin on our behalf, by a redeemer.

3. Who is the Redeemer of God's Elect?

WSC Q.21: Who is the Redeemer of God's Elect?

A: The only redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.

There is one redeemer, there is one name under heaven by which we might be saved. There is one way of escape from our estate of sin and misery which is otherwise destined to be eternal. Do you see how good this news of Jesus Christ is? He has come and paid the price on your behalf, and by him you are saved. When you understand the reality of your estate, you realize there is no other name under heaven by which you may be saved. *For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (1 Timothy 2:5).*

How could you be saved out of such a state of brokenness with God? It is a price that if paid by you would lead to your absolute destruction. But why would God pay such a price? Out of his mere good pleasure. The only redeemer of the God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ. Being the eternal son of God. He became man. At advent we remember and celebrate the Christmas story, but have you considered how utterly necessary it is for you? God must have become a man, because there is a penalty to be paid for your sin. It is a reconciliation that must take place between God and man therefore God became a man in order to fulfill all that he required of you on your behalf.

Here is the good news, you have a redeemer who has made you right with God. All those verses you remember at Christmas, they mean it's all been done for you. They mean the treadmill you've been on the despair of sin, the religious struggle is over. He did it. So here they are afresh.

Isaiah 9:6 | For to 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.

Matt 1:23 | "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

John 1:14 | And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 3:16 | "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Matthew 11:27–30 | Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

You have problems. There worse than you think. Christ has redeemed you. Your sin is cast off, his grace is more. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ. It's Christmas time.

