



Sermon Subject: Sinless Life

Sermon Date: April 5, 2020

We continued our series exploring the saving works of Christ, this time focusing upon Christ's sinless life. Just as Christ's incarnation was absolutely necessary for our salvation, so to was his perfect life of obedience.

THE EVIDENCE FOR HIS SINLESS LIFE

The Bible repeatedly emphasizes Jesus' sinless life. The Old Testament promises it, the gospels evidence it, and the rest of the New Testament (Acts, Pauline Epistles, General Epistles, Revelation) both assume it and explain it. 1 Peter 2:22 says, *"He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth."* Paul summarizes the message of reconciliation as follows: *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). John simply states, *"in him there is no sin"* (1 John 3:5). Jesus Christ lived a sinless life of obedience to God the Father. As we see next, his perfect life enabled him to be our perfect savior.

THE NECESSITY OF HIS SINLESS LIFE

The reason the New Testament repeatedly emphasizes Christ's sinless life is because it was necessary to secure our salvation. We examined the necessity of Jesus' sinless life from two angles.

- **A sinful savior could never save sinners.** The forgiveness of sin required a perfect sacrifice. The Old Testament's sacrificial system graphically made this point. A spotless lamb was the required sacrifice. If Jesus would have sinned, he himself would have needed a savior and he could not have saved anyone.
- **Perfect obedience not simply total innocence was required.** The reason that Jesus didn't die as an infant or arrive on earth as a full-grown man is because our salvation required Jesus to succeed where Adam fell. When Adam disobeyed God's Law, all of his people suffered the consequence of his disobedience. As the second Adam, Christ had to obey God's Law so that all of his people could enjoy the consequence of his obedience. As Paul argues in Romans 5:19, *"For as one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous."*

THE APPLICATION OF CHRIST'S SINLESS LIFE

We examined three ways Christ's sinless life must impact our lives.

- **Awe.** We should stand amazed at Christ's perfectly sinless life of obedience. We should be all the more amazed since we can't go a single day without disobeying God ourselves. Agreement with Christ's sinless life without amazement at it is wholly insufficient. Every second of every day Jesus obeyed the Father. And he delighted to do so. Obedience satisfied him. As Jesus said, *"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and accomplish his work"* (John 4:34).
- **Example.** Christ's obedience is meant to be an example for us to follow. We are to imitate him, striving to be holy just as he is holy. John says, *"Whoever says he abides in him out to walk in the same way in which he walked"* (1 John 2:6).
- **Impute.** Christ's righteous life is especially important in terms of justification. In the gospel, a double transaction occurs. Christ is credited with the curse of our sin so that we can be credited with the blessing of his righteousness. This means that through faith we are not merely declared innocent; we are declared righteous in God's sight. God looked upon Christ as if he looked upon you—pouring out on Jesus the curse of your disobedience—so that God can look upon you as if he looked upon Christ—pouring out on you the blessing of Jesus' obedience.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from Sunday?
2. What amazes you most about Christ's sinless life?
3. How does Christ's life of total obedience provide an unshakable bedrock for our relationship with God through faith in Christ?