



**UPPER
HUNTER**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DEVOTIONAL AID FOR 27 JULY 2020 – 2 AUGUST 2020

Dear church family,

This week is the third week we consider the short phrase in the Apostles' Creed, "And [we believe] in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord". We first saw the appropriateness of our Saviour's name, **Jesus**, since it means "God saves." We then saw last week that **Christ** is a title (not a name) which meant "the anointed one." As the mediator between God and man, Jesus is anointed as our King, Priest, and Prophet. This week, we consider the phrase, "his only Son, our Lord." I hope this week's meditations on Jesus as God's only Son and our Lord refresh you in thankfulness to God and foster joyful obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (0425 270 854 / tim.wonil.lee@gmail.com) if you'd like to pray with me or for any other needs.

Yours in Christ,

Timothy Lee

<https://www.upperhunterpc.com>

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM¹

Lord's Day 13

Q33) **Why is He called God's "only Son" when we also are God's children?**

A) Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God.
We, however, are adopted children of God—adopted by grace through Christ.

Q34) **Why do you call Him "our Lord"?**

A) Because—not with gold or silver, but with His precious blood—
He has set us free from sin and the tyranny of the devil,
and has bought us, body and soul, to be His very own.

GALATIANS 4:4–5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The bible tells us that all true Christians are sons of God (Rom 8:14, Gal 3:26). Jesus also taught us to address God as 'our Father' (Matt 6:9). Being sons of God is the greatest privilege of all Christians. But if this is the case, how is it then, that we continue to confess that Jesus is God's ONLY Son? Isn't Jesus one of God's sons along with us? In Galatians 4:4–5, we see the difference between our sonship and Jesus's sonship. Jesus is simply and naturally God's Son, whereas we are adopted as sons. We were all children of wrath (Eph 2:3), but in His infinite grace, God sent His own Son to redeem sinners so we may be adopted as sons. So our sonship, our right and privilege of calling God as our Father, it all resides in God's natural Son, Jesus Christ. This is why Jesus said "I AM the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Why not pause to thank God for your adoption as sons through the only Son of God?

1 PETER 1:18–19

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

There is a difference between saying "God saves us" and "God redeems us." Both are true, but each statement is meant to highlight a certain aspect of what God has done in Christ for us. Saving or salvation highlights for us how God has rescued us from a grave danger, i.e., God's righteous judgement against all sins. The idea of redemption or redeeming, however, is to do with 'buying back' something. So the concept of cost or price is inherent in redemption. In 1 Peter 1:18–19, we are told we were redeemed (sometimes translated ransomed, which similarly involves paying a price). God bought us back from empty way of life that we had. But amazingly, Peter says here that the price involved in buying us back was not perishable things like silver or gold. We would normally think of silver and gold as non-perishable things. And highly valuable at least partly because they are non-perishables. Yet, even silver and gold are perishable and has no lasting values in comparison to the true cost of our redemption, the precious blood of Christ. It cost the life of Jesus Christ to redeem us. This should eliminate any sense of entitlement in ourselves. We do not belong to ourselves; we belong to Jesus Christ. We are not masters of our own lives; Christ is. Body and soul, Christ owns us. He is our Lord. How then shall we live as redeemed people of God? Peter wants us to "be holy in this world out of a reverent fear [of God]." (1 Peter 1:13–17) Paul puts the same idea in another way in 1 Corinthians 6:19–20: "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

¹ The text of the Catechism is usually from <https://threeforms.org/heidelberg-catechism/>, but time to time, for the sake of clarity, I have also adopted the translation used in *The Good News We Almost Forgot* by Kevin DeYoung.