

## *Chapter 3*

### *The Sufficiency of Christ*

**A doctrinal dilemma is faced as we seek to deal with the problem of depravity and man's state before God:**

What truths does Ezekiel 18:4 reveal of God's judgment?

Read 1 Timothy 2:3, 4 and 2 Peter 3:9.

In what way do these verses seemingly contradict the heart of God as revealed in the preceding passage?

What truths do these verses reveal about God's judgment?

Some scholars would have you think that the seeming contradiction here is the difference between the Old Testament view of God as being wrathful, and the New Testament view of God as being loving.

How does Malachi 3:6 speak of God's character?

From each of the following passages, what can be deduced of this view of the doctrinal dilemma posed by depravity?

In the space provided, write the key thought of each verse.

Psalm 89:1, 2

Psalm 100:5

Psalm 103: 3, 8, 10-14

Psalm 136:1-3, 26

Jeremiah 31:3

Romans 1:18

Romans 6:23

Ephesians 5:6

Hebrews 10:30, 31

Hebrews 12:26

Write a summary statement of the doctrinal dilemma posed by depravity.

According to 2 Peter 1:3, what is the scriptural answer to this dilemma?

What claim does Romans 8:1 make?

For this to be true, what must be accomplished?

### **The sufficiency of Christ in the face of the depravity of man**

In order to deal with depravity within Christ, there must be a solution to every obstacle of depravity. Not one shred of evidence of man's sin must remain in him. According to James 2:10-12 and Galatians 3:10, why is this so?

James 2:10-12

Galatians 3:10

The following chart must be filled out in the proper order. Please read the instructions step by step, accomplishing each task as you progress through them.

1. Read the "problem verse" and write the problem in the space provided.
2. Below each solution is a list of verses. Answer each question concerning Christ's solution as revealed by these verses.
3. Fill in the solution blank with a concise 2-3 sentence summary.
4. Title the section.
5. Move on to the next problem verse and repeat the process.

## **Problem area #1. CHRIST and SIN**

### ***Title:***

Problem verse – Romans 5:12

### **Solution A:**

1 Peter 2:24 – What occurred to Christ while He was on the cross?

2 Corinthians 5:21 – Who did this to Christ?

Galatians 3:13 – What happened to Christ at this point?

Hebrews 9:28 – Was this for all ages, or simply for His generation?

Summarize what has happened up to this point.

### **Solution B:**

According to Romans 3:21-23, what is available to man through faith in Jesus Christ?

According to Philippians 3:9, who does this to us?

What exchange then takes place, according to 2 Corinthians 5:21?

What now abides in us instead of Adam's fallen nature, according to 1 John 3:9?

There are, then, three roles in the doctrine of imputation: Adam, Man and Christ. Explain the doctrine of imputation and the role each plays.

***Title:***

Problem verse – Romans 3:10-12

Solution:

What solution does Ephesians 2:8, 9 give to man's total disinterest in his salvation?

Read Romans 5:6-8

According to this verse, where does the initiative lie in our salvation?

***Title:***

Problem verse – 1 John 3:8

Solution:

According to 1 John 3:8, what is the cause of the practice of sin?

Contrastingly, for what purpose did Christ appear?

***Title:***

Problem verse – Romans 3:9 and Galatians 3:22

Solution:

How does our state in depravity as revealed in Galatians 3:22 compare with our state in Christ in Galatians 3:27?

According to Colossians 3:3, how has Christ dealt with this problem?

***Title:***

Problem verse – Galatians 2:16, 3:19

Solution:

According to Galatians 3:24, what is the purpose of the Law?

According to Romans 5:7-9, what is the key to our being justified before God in the face of His law?

To what degree did this take place? Romans 5:18

**Summary**

Summarize your findings from this section in a concise thesis statement.

Why would a proper understanding of this section be essential:

In evangelism?

To mature as a disciple?

## **Problem area #2. CHRIST and ENSLAVEMENT**

### ***Title:***

Problem verse – John 8:34

### **Solution:**

According to Galatians 3:10, 13 and 4:5, what has Christ accomplished for us on our behalf?

Read Romans 3:23, 24.

How is the problem expressed here?

What is the vehicle of the solution? (Through what?)

If something is redeemed, it goes without saying that a price is paid. Read Ephesians 1:7.

Where is our redemption found?

What is the vehicle for redemption? (Through what?)

What is the result of redemption?

According to Hebrews 9:12-15, how is the redemptive process explained?

To what degree were our sins redeemed, according to Titus 2:14?

When God redeemed us from our sins, what did He do as a response to them, according to Colossians 1:14?

***Title:***

Problem verse – 2 Timothy 2:26

Solution:

Read Colossians 1:13.

How is the problem described?

What does Christ do – e.g., what is the action verb – to deal with this problem?

What is our resulting position?

Read Hebrews 2:14-18, and key on verse 15.

How is the problem described?

What does Christ do – e.g., what is the action verb – to deal with this problem?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:8-11 – How is the truth of the previous passages revealed in the life of Paul?

Read Acts 26:18 – How does Christ deal with each of the following issues?

Man lives in darkness with Satan:

Man exists within the domain of Satan's kingdom:

Man's sinfulness is in obedience to Satan:

Man is destined for hell with Satan:

Man is doing Satan's will:

Read Ephesians 2:2-6 and compare our old state with our new one.

***Title:***

Problem verse – 2 Peter 2:19

Solution:

How does Titus 3:3 describe this enslavement?

Now read Titus 3:4-6. This passage is the link between the two. What is the vehicle through which the solution is reached? (“By” what?)

Now turn to 2 Peter 1:4.

What is the problem as described here?

What did we “become” in order to escape this?

What light does this shed on the doctrine of regeneration?

Cross-reference this with 2 Corinthians 5:17. How does this description of regeneration deal with our problem of being “slaves to corruption”?

***Title:***

Problem verse – Romans 6:19a

Solution:

How does Paul describe our “before and after” status in Romans 6:19?

Many Christians view themselves as free moral agents to live on their own as they please. How does 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 and 7:23 speak to this?

Rather than “free” moral agents:

What is our true state in the eyes of God?

What other passage in scripture would be a proof text for your answer?

***Title:***

Problem verse – Romans 6:19b

Solution:

How is the problem described in Titus 2:14, and what is the solution?

According to Romans 4:5-8, how is our enslavement to lawlessness dealt with?

According to Hebrews 10:17, 18, what has happened to God's memory of our past enslavement to lawlessness, and what is the practical result of this?

What is the Christian's state said to be, as compared to the lawless state of the pagan in 2 Corinthians 6:14?

***Title:***

Problem verse – Galatians 4:3

Solution:

Read 1 John 5:1-8 and key on verse 4.

What does God give us that we may "overcome the world"?

What is the key to this, and why?

***Title:***

Problem verse – Romans 5:17

Solution:

How is the reign of death dealt with in 1 Corinthians 15:54?

What are we given in the struggle against death?

Cross reference this with another passage in the Bible.

According to 1 Corinthians 15:57, what is the origin of our victory?

### **Summary**

Summarize your findings from this section in a concise thesis statement.

Why would a proper understanding of this section be essential:

In evangelism?

To mature as a disciple?

### **Problem area #3. CHRIST and THE FLESH**

***Title:***

Problem verse – 1 Corinthians 2:14

**Solution:**

What does Christ give as the key to this problem in John 3:3?

What, according to Titus 3:5, is the result of this?

According to 2 Corinthians 5:7?

According to 1 Peter 1:3, 4 and 23, what does regeneration do for the believer?

How does this solve the problem of our old nature?

**Summary**

Summarize your findings from this section in a concise thesis statement.

Why would a proper understanding of this section be essential:

In evangelism?

To mature as a disciple?

## **Problem area #4. CHRIST and DEPRAVITY**

### ***Title:***

Problem verse – Romans 8:3

### **Solution:**

According to Romans 8:3, what has God done to all “sin in the flesh?”

According to Titus 3:5:

What cannot save us?

How does this compare with the truth in Romans 8:3?

What, then, has motivated God to save us if it is not our righteousness?

How does Romans 8:1 describe the state of those who have received God’s mercy?

### **Summary**

Summarize your findings from this section in a concise thesis statement.

Why would a proper understanding of this section be essential:

In evangelism?

To mature as a disciple?

### ***Title:***

Problem verse – Luke 9:9, 10

### **Solution:**

How do the three parables in Luke 15 illustrate God’s answer to the lost state of mankind?

Parable 1

Parable 2

Parable 3

What do the statements of the father mean in Luke 15:24, 32 in the context of spiritual truth?

***Title:***

Problem verse – Hebrews 9:27

Solution:

What does Romans 6:23 state is the penalty of sin?

According to Hebrews 2:9, who experiences this on our behalf?

What, then, does Christ become for us?

How is this illustrated in Romans 5:6-10?

In Isaiah 13:11 and 26:21, what is God's reaction to all sin?

How does God remain true to Himself and the requirement of the law to punish sin, and yet at the same time allow us to go free?  
See Romans 8:1-4.

What, then, was Christ for us?

How does Isaiah 53:4, 5, 7, 8, 10 describe Christ as a substitute for God's legal duty to punish sin?

***Title:***

Problem verse – Revelation 6:17; 14:10, 11

How does Revelation 6:17 describe God's judgment in the last days?

What does Ezekiel 5:13 say about God's reaction to sin?

What must be "satisfied?"

What must God "be?"

Solution #1:

Read Romans 3:21-26 and key on verse 25.

What did God make Christ?

What must Christ do to become this?

What two things did this allow God to do:

In relation to His character?

In relation to mankind?

Read Hebrews 2:14-18.

As a high priest in verse 17, what did Christ do?

According to verse 14, how did Christ accomplish this?

Read 1 John 2:1, 2.

What did Christ become, not only for us, but for the whole world?

What implications does this have in evangelism?

Read 1 John 4:8-10.

How does God show His love for us?

What did He make Christ in order to do this?

What implications does this have for our lives?

Solution #2:

Read Romans 5:9, 10.

What is our relationship to God when we are due His wrath?

What does God do through His Son when He saves us?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.

What does God do to us through Christ?

What type of change in us does this pre-suppose?

What is the message of the gospel?

What is the result of this message?

If God is a wrathful God who punishes all sin, and if man is sinful, for God to be reconciled to man, what must He do?

According to Malachi 3:6, will He do this, and why?

According to Romans 5:9-10 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, who is reconciled to whom?

Therefore, who changes?

Why is this significant?

## **Summary**

Summarize your findings from this section in a concise thesis statement.

Why would a proper understanding of this section be essential:

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## Chapter Summary

Compare and Contrast:

Instructions: In the space below, compare and contrast the two terms. In other words, how are they similar and how are they unique?

Grace vs. Mercy

Substitution vs. Reconciliation

Victory vs. Redemption

Imputation vs. Regeneration

Justification vs. Propitiation

## **Application**

How will a better understanding of the sufficiency of Christ aid us in our worship of God?

How and why will a proper understanding of the sufficiency of Christ aid us in our relationships with one another?

How and why will a proper understanding of the sufficiency of Christ promote a better self image?

How would a lack of conviction in this area affect a disciples' walk with God? List below the five basic areas which would be affected by a lack of proper convictions in this area.

What extremes might a Christian drift into if he did not fully understand the sufficiency of Christ?

How would a proper understanding in this area aid in consistency in the basics?