

From the February 4, 2008 Issue

## **Pope John Paul II on Humanity's Salvation**

We're sometimes asked "are you sure that all of humanity is included in Christ's redemptive work? I've never heard that before."

Over the last few months we've quoted from a number of the ancient Fathers of the Church affirming the inclusion of humanity in Christ's redemptive work. This month we quote from a modern father, Pope John Paul II. In his *Message for the World Day of Peace* in 1990 our catholic brother wrote:

Christians believe that the Death and Resurrection of Christ accomplished the work of reconciling humanity to the Father, who "was pleased ... through (Christ) to reconcile to himself *all things*, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross" (*Col* 1:19-20). Creation was thus made new (cf. *Rev* 21:5). Once subjected to the bondage of sin and decay (cf. *Rom* 8:21 ), it has now received new life while "we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" (*2 Pt* 3:13). Thus, the Father "has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery . . . which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite *all things* in him, all things in heaven and things on earth" (*Eph* 1:9-10). [All emphases are his]

You can find the full text of his comments at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va). Simply search for "Message for the World Day of Peace 1990".