

The Atonement

Definition: The atonement is the work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation

The Problem:

- As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. Romans 3:10-11
- For there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:22b-23
- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

The Solution: If all have sinned, it is necessary that there be a sinless sacrifice to satisfy the justice of God. This is referred to as ‘atoning’ for sin, thus the atonement.

A. Two causes of the atonement: Love and Justice

The love of God: As a cause of the atonement, it is seen in the most familiar passage in the Bible:

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

The Justice of God: Being perfect in justice, it would be required that God find a way that the penalty due to us for our sins would be paid because He could not accept us into fellowship with Himself unless the penalty was paid. (**Romans 3:24-25**)

B. The Necessity of the Atonement: God did not need, nor was obligated to provide atonement for the sins of mankind. He did not do so for fallen angels. (2 Peter 2:4-9)

But the atonement was necessary if God was going to save any sinners (Luke 24:25-26, Hebrews 2:17)

C. The Nature of the Atonement

Christ's obedience for us (sometimes called his "active obedience")

Christ lived a life of perfect obedience to God as our representative (**John 8:29; Rom. 5:19; 1 Cor. 1:30; Phil 3:9**)

Christ's sufferings for us (sometimes called his "passive obedience") (Matt 4:1-11; Heb 5:8; Isa 53:3)

Why did Jesus have to die?

Key reasons for Jesus' death include:

- **Atonement for Sin:** _____
- **Satisfying Divine Justice:** _____
- **Defeating Death and Evil:** _____
- **Reconciliation:** _____
- **Demonstrating Perfect Obedience:** _____
- **Ultimate Sacrifice:** _____

Propitiation: (*hilasmos*) (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:10)

D. The Result of the Atonement

- Christ lived a perfect, sinless life and died a terrible death in order to ‘save His people from their sins’ (Matthew 1:21)

- He paid the penalty, endured the wrath that WE deserved in order to pay for our sins. (Isaiah 53:5)

-He freed us from the bondage caused by sin. (Galatians 5:1)

Because of Christ’s work on our behalf, the atonement, God ‘delivered us from the domain of darkness’ and transferred us to the kingdom of His Son. (Colossians 1:13)
