

Daily Bible Study

“Christ Has For Sin Atonement Made”

Romans 5:8-11

June 26 – July 2, 2011

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY – In preparation to come this Lord’s Day and celebrate and observe the Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper together I wanted to take the time to focus our attention on the doctrine of “The Atonement”. It was the reformers who said that The Lord’s Table “is the Gospel in visible form”. So as we sit before the visible elements and prepare to partake of them together my prayer is that we would first see Christ more clearly and then also see on this table a visible picture of The Atonement, if you will. We will turn together to several passages as we just try to hear God speak through His Word, then know, understand, and cherish this precious truth of “The Atonement”. This doctrine is what **Spurgeon** called, “the brain and spinal cord of Christianity”. There is no possible way we could exhaust the immense truths of The Atonement in one sermon as its glories are immense, full, and inexhaustible but we do want to see some general basics concerning this great doctrine. For starters, the word “atonement” in the Greek language is the word katallage {**kat-al-lag-ay**}. It is used a total of four times in Scripture but the principle it teaches is found throughout many passages and texts. The word means “exchange, or adjustment of a difference, reconciliation, restoration to favor”. We have all heard of someone who had to “atone” for a mistake or something they did. But that is a very surface understanding of what deep truths are expressed in this word “atonement” especially when we speak of the “**atoning death**” of Jesus Christ. A short Biblical definition would be to say that “atonement” is a reconciliation of alienated parties or the restoration of a broken relationship. When “atonement” is made there is a blotting out of offenses and satisfaction for wrongs done is achieved. This is the central truth of what Jesus accomplished on the cross for those who would believe in Him by faith.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, God, teach and feed me from Your Word this week. Help me to understand what You, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit have done for me in “The Atonement”.

TUESDAY – First, let’s look at why “atonement” is needed. What is the broken relationship that must be restored and what wrongs need to be satisfied in order for that to happen? In order to fully understand, marvel, and enjoy this blessed doctrine we need to realize the greatest need of every man. Every mother’s child is born a sinner. He is not a sinner because he sins but rather he sins because he is a sinner. Therefore, every single man, woman, and child ever born needs to

make atonement with a Holy God (**Job 14:4, Psalm 51:5, 58:3**). The problem lies in the fact that we as fallen, sinful men have no power in and of ourselves to make that necessary reconciliation. The truth is that we have offended our creator who by His very nature hates sin (**Jeremiah 44:4, Habakkuk 1:13**). That same Holy God must also punish sin (**Psalm 5:4-6, Romans 1:18, 2:5-9**). Mankind, apart from God's intervention would be left to die eternally and suffer just punishment for the violation of His Holy Law. Man cannot be accepted, and does not have fellowship with God unless "atonement" is made. We need help from an external source; we need what **Martin Luther** called "*an alien righteousness*" which we ourselves do not possess. Luther meant we need righteousness that is "outside" of us. Oh, how desperate is man's condition apart from God's grace. But it gets worse for us. To complicate matters, we understand by Scripture that there is sinfulness in the "best" of our intentions and actions as sinful humans. We cannot get away from the fact we are inherently sinful in heart (**Jeremiah 17:9, Matthew 15:16-20**). We hear often, "he has a good heart"—no he doesn't and neither do you. Furthermore, anything we do in the hope of making amends with God can only increase our guilt and worsen the situation. As **R.C. Sproul** has stated in his study notes, "There is no way to establish one's own righteousness before God; it simply cannot be done". (**Proverbs 15:8, Job 15:14-16, Isaiah 64:6, Romans 10:2-3**). This is where man lives; as an enemy of God (**James 4:4**), separated from Him by our sin. My friends, this is why it is so important we give out the true message of the gospel to the lost. No man is saved who hasn't realized that he needs to be saved. A gospel presentation that does not call men to recognize and repent from their sin is not the gospel message that Christ and the Scripture proclaims. I can't overemphasize this point! We need to be saved BUT saved from what?

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Meditate on this awesome truth that reconciliation with God Almighty is possible through Jesus Christ. Thank Him today. Ask God to help you to see how hopeless and sinful you are apart from Him and an "alien righteousness" that only He can give.

WEDNESDAY – The Gospel is good news and we begin to see that greatest news possible to us who are so helplessly and hopelessly lost in our sin. Scripture teaches us that God Himself in grace and mercy provides the atonement necessary for sin. This is the profound story of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. In **Old Testament** times God set up the sacrificial system which required the shedding of blood of animals (**Leviticus 17:11**). These blood sacrifices were provided as "*types*" of the greater and better sacrifice that was to come in the person of Jesus Christ. When by faith the people offered the sacrifices in obedience to God they found forgiveness. It was not the blood of animal's that forgives but rather the blood of the "*antitype*" Jesus Christ the "*lamb of God*" whose death on the cross atoned for the sins committed of all who by faith come to God for cleansing. Those, who by the eternal covenant were set apart by God to be His people find forgiveness of their sin by faith alone in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus who

dies as the substitute on their behalf. All sins; past, present and future have been atoned for on behalf of those who by obedient faith have repented and trusted Jesus. The Scriptures make it clear that people in both the Old and New Testament times as well as today, were and are saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, The Messiah, and The Anointed one of and from God the Father. People were never saved except by faith in the promised one come from God. I.E. –Simeon (**Luke 2:25-33**), Abraham (**John 8:56, Hebrews 11:13**), David, (**Romans 4:3-8**), The Prophets (**1 Peter 1:10-12**).

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for loving sinners and for pointing out the way of Salvation to us throughout Your Holy Word. Thank You for all the illustrations and teaching that points to Jesus and His work for us His people on the cross.

THURSDAY – The **New Testament** makes it clear that the blood of Jesus Christ was shed as a sacrifice (**Romans 5:9, Ephesians 1:7**). Christ redeemed (bought back) His people by a ransom. That is to say His death was the ransom price that freed us from sin with its guilt and enslavement (**Galatians 4:4-5, Colossians 1:14**). God reconciled us who believe to Himself by satisfying His hostility and wrath for our sin in Christ’s death (**Romans 5:10, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19**). The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross propitiated (satisfied) God’s wrath toward us who believe in that God expiated (atoned for, made amends) our sins and removed them from His sight forever (**Romans 3:25-26, Hebrews 2:17, 1 John 2:2, 4:10**). The cross of Jesus provides this atonement because in His suffering Jesus assumed our position as our substitute as He endured the judgment of God for our sin. He became a “*curse for us*” (**Galatians 3:13**). The damning record of our sins was nailed by God to His cross (**Colossians 2:14**). This is the wonderful work of God in making atonement and restoring us to favor in Christ, by His death for us. The cross of Jesus Christ was a transaction between The Son and The Father where wrath for sin was dealt with by the perfect sacrifice who satisfied God’s Holy wrath for sin in “*His own body*” as Peter states.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

*Suggestion for Prayer: Dear God, help me to truly understand that as You say in Scripture, “In my flesh, dwelleth no good thing” (**Romans 7:18**). Thanks, that You offer forgiveness through Jesus Christ and His work on the cross. Thank You Jesus, for Your sacrifice which makes atonement possible and sure for us who would believe.*

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Finally, this week lets see some **False theories of the Atonement:**

Abelardian/Moral Influence—Jesus nailed to the cross is God saying “I love you” to get us to shape up. It becomes a moral cleanup campaign. God loves me so much; therefore I have got to stop being such a jerk. This is illustrated so vividly in the “t-shirt” slogan which says, “I asked God how much He loved me and He spread out His arms and said ‘this much’”. My dear friends, yes the love of God was shown in full measure at the Cross, but that love alone would not get anyone to heaven if His Divine, Holy wrath for sin which keeps man from His presence had not been satisfied in the suffering of our Lord Jesus. This talk of love, love, love that forgets the Divine fury of Calvary minimizes what took place there in “The Atonement”. This erroneous view assumes the problem is that we as humans just don’t know how much God loves us. It becomes a drive for education—if I just knew, I would be a better person. This ignores that there is a problem WITHIN God. Man can’t fix it whether he can see God’s love or not. This mentality has led to Christ less, and cross less preaching that is so popular today and that says it is NOT sin that offends God that is the biggest issue rather our biggest problem is that we are so obsessed with our problems we are not able to recognize God’s great love for us.

Governmental/Grotius & Finney—The cross is God showing how seriously He takes the breaking of His law. Primarily a law giver and this is a demonstration of how stern He is. “You have seen Me kill My son so now clean up your act”. God publicly shows His displeasure with sin by punishing his Son. These may have some truth in them but the sad part is they offer no good news, no real remedy for the sin problem, but there is good news; Christ Jesus can save because in the Atonement what He saves us from no one or nothing else can accomplish. Only God (Jesus) fulfilling the law perfectly in our place, bearing the curse of the law and sin on the cross through His death, and coming out of the grave the third day is capable of triumphing over death, Satan, sin, and hell. Jesus bore the curse and He made “Atonement”. So we prepare to come to The Table where we see “The Visible Picture of the Atonement” and the question for you is this: Was **your** sin paid for at the cross? Have **you** felt the horrific weight of your sin and turned in obedient, repentant faith to Jesus for the forgiveness of your sin? Maybe it should be asked this way—Are you feeling the weight of your sin and are you (present tense) turning to Jesus by faith in Him alone and trusting His Righteousness and not your own? Do you stand humbly broken before God? We don’t deserve anything but judgment from God. It is by His free electing grace that we can stand forgiven before Him. If we understood this to the fullest, we would be a much different people. “*Christ has for sin atonement made—what a wonderful Savior! We are redeemed the price is paid—what a wonderful Savior! What a wonderful Savior is Jesus my Jesus, what a wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord!*”

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Ask God to help you to understand, cherish, and by faith trust in this blessed work of atonement made possible through Jesus. God, help me to more deeply understand and to more passionately embrace and proclaim this incredible truth. May I forever cling to the cross of Jesus as my only means of salvation.