

The Atonement of Christ

Homework Assignment

1. Read **Exodus Ch. 28-30**
2. Read **Hebrews 5, 7-10**

Lesson Outline

- I. The Nature of Atonement
 - i. Definition
 1. That which repairs an injury, gives satisfaction, makes amends
 2. **Numbers 16:44-50**
 - ii. The Atonement of Christ
 1. The expiation, (pay the penalty), of sin by the satisfaction rendered to the law and justice of God through the obedience and death of Christ
 2. Above the law of God
 - a. God's law does not require an atonement, only punishment
 3. In harmony with the law of God
 - a. Man's ruin a result of violating God's law
 - b. Therefore man's recovery must be consistent with this law
 - c. **Galatians 4:4-5**
 - d. Man dishonored law; Jesus honored law
 4. Scriptural support
 - a. **Isaiah 53:5-6**
 - b. **John 1:29**
 - c. **Romans 3:25**
 - d. **Hebrews 9:26**
 - e. **I Peter 2:24**
 - f. **I John 4:10**
 5. Christ assumed the legal responsibilities of those He came to save
 - a. "He bore our sins"
 - b. "He shall bear their iniquities"
 - c. When our sins were laid on Him, He suffered the consequences of these sins, though He was not found guilty
 6. Therefore, it was proper, right, and just for Christ to suffer
 - a. He was legally responsible for us
 - b. **Luke 24:26**
 - c. **Hebrews 2:10** – "made perfect through sufferings"

d. **Hebrews 5:9** -- official, mediatorial perfection

iii. The Substitution of Christ

1. He died in our place

a. Not just a martyr for the truth, like Paul, etc

b. **I Thessalonians 5:10**

c. **Titus 2:14**

d. **I Timothy 2:6**

2. His death is substituted for our death

3. He did not die for fallen angels

iv. Atonement Enables God to be “Just” and “Justifier”

1. **Romans 3:26**

2. Without atonement God would be “Just” and “Condemner”

II. The Necessity of the Atonement

i. Not Necessary that God Provide Salvation

1. Example – angels

2. Justice would still be served

ii. No Salvation Without Atonement

1. The atonement is the effect, not the cause, of God’s love for us

2. **John 3:16** – Love prompted giving His Son

iii. Necessity Originated in the Obstacles Interposed by the Law and Justice of God

1. This law, having been transgressed, demanded the execution of its penalty, and justice concurred

2. The law is holy, just, and good

iv. The Atonement of Christ Satisfied Law and Justice

1. Removed the restraints on Mercy

2. Harmonized the divine perfections in the salvation of sinners

a. Mercy triumphs

b. Justice shines

c. Holiness appears in all its beauty

d. Wisdom exhibits its infinite quality

v. Why Does the Law of God, When Violated, Need Satisfaction?

1. Sinners deserve punishment because they are sinners

a. Not primarily to deter others, though a benefit

b. True even if God had created only Adam

2. Based on a person’s behavior in relation to God

a. Sin is against a Holy God, even antagonistic

- b. Something in the nature of sin that discredits God
 - c. God's law reflects His holiness, God hates sin
 - 3. Penalty for violation of the law must fall somewhere
 - a. On the transgressor
 - b. Or a substitute
 - 4. Sin is so great an evil that it can never be pardoned without an expiatory sacrifice
- vi. Christ's Atonement is Good to God and Man
 - 1. Its saving influences reach man, because its propitiatory merit first reaches the throne of God
 - 2. It turns away the wrath of God from all mankind
 - a. **Numbers 16:44-50**
 - b. **John 3:36**
 - c. **I Thessalonians 1:10**
- vii. God's wrath is His Holy and Just Indignation Against Sin
 - 1. Not like excited passion in man
 - 2. Wrath against sin and love for sinners are perfectly consistent
 - 3. Not vindictive but vindicative
 - 4. God will destroy unbelievers with sin
 - a. Proof —Calvary
 - b. God presided over the events at Calvary
 - c. **John 18:11**
 - d. **Isaiah 53:10**
 - e. **Zechariah 13:7**
 - 5. Jesus' suffering on Calvary more than physical pain
 - a. He felt the wrath of God against sin
 - b. Communion with Heaven was suspended
 - c. **Matthew 27:46**
 - 6. "It really seems that hatred of sin is, if possible, a stronger feeling in the bosom of the Father than love for His Son."
- viii. Why Does Sin Exist?
 - 1. Without it we couldn't see the depth of God's perfection

III. The Value of the Atonement

- i. It was the Antitype and the Consummation of All Sacrifices
 - 1. The offering of sacrifices by man began with Adam
 - a. **Hebrews 11:4** – Abel brought blood
 - 2. The offering of sacrifices was enlarged at Mt Sinai

3. All offerings point to Calvary
4. Jesus, the sacrifice to end all sacrifices
 - a. **Hebrews 9:18-28**
 - b. Type gave way to antitype and shadow to substance
- ii. The Appointment of God
 1. Christ's atonement was divinely appointed
 - a. **John 1:29** – God's Lamb
 - b. **John 6:27** – Father sealed Him as Messiah
 2. Approved by God
- iii. The Dignity of His Person
 1. Just Divine appointment will not give value to sacrifice
 - a. **Hebrews 10:4** – even though they were divinely appointed
 - b. no worth in bulls and goats
 2. Jesus as sinless God/Man gave merit to the sacrifice
- iv. To Reject the Divinity of Jesus is a Rejection of Salvation

IV. The Extent of the Atonement

- i. To All of Adam's Descendants
 1. Wherever men may travel
 2. Everyone can be saved
 - a. **Mark 16:15-16** – all the world, every creature
- ii. To Each of Us Individually
- iii. Why Are Some Not Saved?
 1. Not because of inadequate atonement
 2. Because some are unwilling to be saved