

THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST

THE NEED FOR SALVATION

- The transgression of Adam imputed sin to all ([Rom 5:12-21](#))
- All have sinned ([Rom 3:23](#); [Eph 2:1-2](#))
¹*How conclusive is the evidence that the above is true?*
- The wages of sin is death ([Rom 6:23](#); [Eph 2:1-2](#))
²*What death is meant in these verses?*

ATONEMENT FOR SIN

Under Mosaic Law, when a person became guilty of sin he was to bring his offering to the Lord and confess his sin. The priest would then make atonement on his behalf ([Lev 5:5-10](#)). The meaning of atonement is 'to cover or make reconciliation'. His sin would be forgiven and relationship with God restored but judgment deferred until dealt with by the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross. The death of the sacrificed animal was only typical of the death of Jesus and not efficacious ([Heb 10:4](#)). All sins of the Mosaic age were then 'covered' but not 'taken away.' Atonement is an Old Testament term that does not appear in the New Testament. It took the death of Jesus to satisfy the justice of God and take away the sin of the world ([John 1:29](#)).

Even before the Law was given we see evidence of this same principle applied when God sacrificed an animal to make clothing of skin for Adam and Eve ([Gen 3:21](#)); when Abel offered an appropriate sacrifice and Cain's wasn't accepted by God ([Gen 4:3-5](#); [Heb 11:4](#)); when Noah offered burnt offerings after the flood ([Gen 8:20](#)); when Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain with Laban ([Gen 31:54](#)) and when he offered a sacrifice at Beersheba ([Gen 46:1](#)). It may be that God had given instructions for animal sacrifice beginning with Adam and Eve.

³*Read Heb 9:22. Is there forgiveness without the shedding of blood?*

SACRIFICE FOR SIN

Jewish animal sacrifices were always typical of Christ and needed to be repeated. The sacrifice of Jesus was once-for-all ([Heb 10:1-12](#)). It was:

- Penal: The penalty of death for sin was required ([Rom 6:23](#); [8:3-4](#); [1Pet 3:18](#))
- Substitutional: Jesus took the penalty for all sin upon Himself acting as our vicarious agent ([Isa 53:5-6](#); [Rom 5:6-8](#); [1Cor 15:3](#); [2Cor 5:21](#); [Gal 3:13](#); [1Pet 2:24](#))
- Voluntary: Jesus chose to sacrifice Himself for us ([John 10:17-18](#))

⁴*Why was a penalty required for sin?*

⁵*How was God's justice satisfied by the sacrifice of Jesus?*

JESUS REDEEMED US

Redemption deals with the problem of sin. All mankind are slaves to sin ([Rom 7:14](#)), dominated by Satan ([Eph 2:1-2](#)) and condemned ([John 3:18](#); [Rom 3:19](#); [Gal 3:10](#)). Jesus chose to be a substitute and take our place. He has paid as a ransom all demands of a holy God as a result of human sin and emancipated us...we are forever loosed from bondage and set free! ([1Cor 6:20](#); [Gal 3:13](#); [4:4-5](#); [Eph 1:7](#); [Titus 2:14](#)). The unsaved remain in debt and slavery due to unbelief but the Christian voluntarily surrenders to become a bond-slave of the Redeemer ([Rom 12:1-2](#)).

⁶*Can I be free from the bondage of sin without being under bondage to Christ?*

JESUS RECONCILED US TO GOD ([Rom 5:10-11](#); [2Cor 5:18-19](#); [Col 1:19-20](#))

Reconciliation deals with the problem of the sinner. Since the penalty for all sin was paid by Jesus on the cross our relationship to God has been changed in that we have been redeemed and are now acceptable to God. Jesus reconciled us to God. We simply have to accept it. The lost can be saved when they individually elect to confess their sins accepting the sacrifice of Jesus on their behalf. Because we are changed God can treat us with grace instead of wrath.

⁷*Are there any barriers between you and God? What is the source of those barriers?*

JESUS IS THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS

Propitiation deals with the problem of an offended God. In tabernacle worship the high priest would enter the holy of holies once a year and sprinkle sacrificial blood on the mercy seat making atonement ([Lev 16:14-17](#)). Jesus is the meeting place, or mercy seat, between a holy God and sinful man where satisfaction of justice is realized. He is the propitiator, who not only dealt with sin by the sacrifice of Himself but was also the High Priest who made the offering on our behalf ([Heb 9:11-12, 24-28](#); [1John 2:2](#); [4:10](#)). We see that the Law is an expression of God's holiness whereas the cross is an expression of His love. Even now Jesus is our ongoing advocate with the Father appeasing God's wrath by His propitiation ([Rom 8:34](#)).

⁸*Read Rom 8:1. Will God condemn us because of our sin?*

APPENDIX

¹*How conclusive is the evidence that the above is true?*

We have the written evidence of the Word of God which should be sufficient. We also have the personal experience of our own sin and observation of a sinful world. If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and judge God to be a liar ([1John 1:8-10](#)).

²*What death is meant in these verses?*

Romans 6:23 is referring to death in general, both physical and spiritual. This is consistent with what is explained by God in Genesis 3:9. Adam and Eve became subject to physical death AND separation from God, or spiritual death. Ephesians 2:1-2 is referring specifically to spiritual death, the condition of the unsaved without Christ.

³*Read Heb 9:22. Is there forgiveness without the shedding of blood?*

The simple answer is no. The life of the body is in the blood ([Lev 17:11](#)) so that the shedding of the blood indicates death. It was the sacrificial death of Christ that bought salvation and His shed blood was the indication of His death. The shed blood symbolizes the sacrificial death for sin. Therefore, without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

⁴*Why was a penalty required for sin?*

The breaking of God's laws requires a penalty because God is just. Righteous laws are maintained by sanctions which are consequences of rebellion against a Holy God. Justice is consistent with holiness and demands a penalty for sin.

⁵*How was God's justice satisfied by the sacrifice of Jesus?*

The sacrifice of Jesus was efficacious because He was without sin and yet died for the sin of the world. He paid the penalty required to satisfy the justice that was demanded.

⁶*Can I be free from the bondage of sin without being under bondage to Christ?*

No. We have been bought with a price and are the possession of Jesus who redeemed us and indwelt us by His Spirit ([1Cor 6:19-20](#)). Salvation involves repentance from sin ([2Cor 7:10](#)) and confession that Jesus is Lord ([Rom 10:10](#)). "We have been freed from sin and enslaved to God" ([Rom 6:22](#)).

⁷*Are there any barriers between you and God? What is the source of those barriers?*

It's important to remain in good fellowship with God. Unconfessed sin produces guilt and harms the relationship. Openness with God about your sin breaks down the barriers and deepens the relationship. He knows, understands, and will forgive you if you confess your sins to Him ([1John 1:8-9](#)).

⁸*Read Rom 8:1. Will God condemn us because of our sin?*

No. The penalty for our sin has been paid for. There is no condemnation from Him. Even when we sin we can go to Him expecting open arms to receive us (figuratively).