

Course DC209: Atonement

... and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Hebrews 9:22

Intro: When one comes to the Doctrine of Atonement, it is fitting that he first removes, as it were, his sandals from his feet—for it is to tread upon holy ground. The Doctrine of Atonement reveals that God had to be propitiated in order for Him to deal favorably towards man as He desires—that there must first be atonement made for our sin. Through many types and shadow God educated the world to understand His righteous requirement that without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sin. The many Old Testament animal sacrifices could not take away sin (Heb. 10:4), they could only point the worshipper to trust in God that He would one day provide a sacrifice which truly could atone for sins. A sacrifice which truly would make propitiation take place—**which truly could result in the remission of our sins!** The doctrine of Atonement sets forth the necessity of the Substitutionary Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The world finds this offensive—the offense of the cross! For it testifies how hopelessly lost and unable we are to work ourselves back into God’s good graces. But there is no other way than through the shed Blood of Jesus Christ, and if there were, **“then Christ died in vain”** (Gal. 2:21).

I.) Substitutionary Sacrifice

Christ died for our sin:

- Matt 20:28 ... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.
- 1 Pet. 2:24 ... who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.
- Gal. 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, *“Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”*).
- Rom. 3:25 ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
- Rom. 4:25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.
- Heb. 9:28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.
- 1 Pet. 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

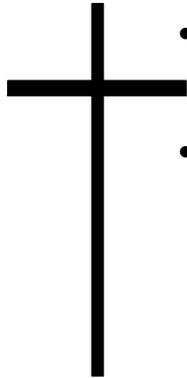
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- 1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.
- Lev. 17:11 for it is the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.

II.) Sin Ruined, the Law of God’s Righteousness Requirements Fulfilled

The Higher Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus prevailing over the law of sin and death:

Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed. Psalms 85:10



- Gal 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."
- Romans 8:1-4 ¹ *There is therefore* **now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.** ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, **God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,** ⁴ **THAT THE RIGHTEOUS REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN US** who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

III.) The Only True Atoning Sacrifice for the Remission of Sin

His Sacrifice does not need to be repeated, it is infinitely able to save all who come to God through Him:

- Heb. 10:11-14 ¹¹ And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.
- Dan. 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.
- Col 1:19-23. ¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

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IV.) Only the God-Man Could Bring Reconciliation

Those who reject the atonement reject the central theme; the very heart and soul of all the Bible. Man imagines that the gospel is too bloody to be true. They say foolish things like, "If God wanted to save people, why didn't He just forgive them of their sins! Why did He have to send Jesus to the cross? I love my children and want to forgive them, and I don't require that I am first propitiated before I forgive them." But such do not understand the justice of God. God is more than just Father, He is Judge, the Moral Judge of the universe. And the judge of all the earth must do what is right, if He let sin go unpunished, the very realm of His kingdom would be ruined. It is not a question of God not loving man until He is first propitiated. God loved us before the foundation of the world—He is the One who set the whole plan of redemption in progress. Only He could make reconciliation happen, and at great anguish to Himself, but man could do nothing about the damning offense of sin—"**In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins**" (1 John 4:10).

Consider the following example which helps somewhat to illustrate the matter of God needing to fulfill all righteousness as the Judge of all the earth who must do right, even while loving and desiring reconciliation. Years ago I came across a report on TV about the execution of a murderer. It was shared that one of those who was present to watch the execution was a family member (the father I believe) of the one this man had killed. Shortly before the execution took place, through the glass, the murderer asked this family member to forgive him. The man communicated that he did forgive him, and the execution proceeded. And we say correctly that the execution needed to proceed. Just because there was forgiveness in this man's heart for him does not mean that the just requirement of the law had been satisfied. In Christ we have been granted forgiveness from the Father, and the law's requirement was satisfied in Christ's Substitutionary death for us. Now, the account of this man's execution can only illustrate so much for us. For in attempting to relate it to our situation, God would be not only the offended family member, but the judge, the executioner of justice, and through Christ He is also the Victim who satisfies the righteous requirement of God's law! O how great is the love of God in Christ towards us. Proverbs 28:5 reads: "**Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the Lord understand all.**"

The only way salvation could come to us:

- Romans 5:6-11 ⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.
- Luke 24:44-49 ⁴⁴ Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me." ⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

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- 2 Cor. 5:18-21 ¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- 1 Tim. 2:2-6. ³ For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the Man* Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

V.) The Reconciliation Accomplished in Christ Shadowed in the Old Testament

Examples from the Old Testament could be greatly multiplied. However, this point will be set forth in just two well-known accounts. Combined these two accounts set forth an abundance of testimony to the work that Christ accomplished for our salvation. The Father's anguished heart is revealed. The Son's willingness to be offered up for us. The necessity for the Blood of Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and that we must personally trust in His atoning Blood.

Jesus is our Passover Lamb, saved by His Blood:

- ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take *it* from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. ⁸ Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it. . . . It is the LORD'S Passover. ¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the LORD.

*"My father! . . . where is the Lamb?"
 . . . "God will provide for Himself
 the Lamb" Gen. 22:7-8*

*"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes
 away the sin of the world!" John 1:29*

*"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
 to receive power and riches and
 wisdom, and strength and honor and
 glory and blessing! Rev. 5:12*

¹³ Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you *are*. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt. . . . ²¹ Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover *lamb*. ²² And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that *is* in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. ²³ For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike *you*. (Selected portions from Exodus Chapter 12.)

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Abraham offering up Isaac, the LORD will Provide (i.e., provide the Sacrifice):

- ² Then He said, "Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. ⁵ And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." ⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, **God will provide for Himself the lamb** for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. ⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." ¹² And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me." ¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind *him was* a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The Lord it shall be provided." Genesis 22:2-14

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
John 3:16*

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VI.) The Precious Gift of the Blood of Atonement from the Substitutionary Sacrifice, the Mediator between God and Man

- 1 Pet. 1:18-19 ¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

