

WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY?

AN OVERVIEW OF ATONEMENT

WHY DO WE NEED ATONEMENT?



Sin separates us from righteous relationship with God and makes us slaves. The only way to be set free from the bondage of Satan, sin, and death is through atonement.

S: Eph 2:1-3, Rom 3:21-26, Heb 9:11-22

"For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life"

Lev 17:11

WHAT MOVES GOD TO ATONE FOR SIN?

Atonement flows from God's loving, just, gracious character. In love, God desires to seek and save sinners. However, in justice, God cannot ignore the offense and penalty of our sin. Therefore, in grace, God himself bears the offense and penalty of sin on the cross.

S: Ex 34:6-9, Rom 3:21-26, Eph 2:4-7

"...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith."

Rom 3:23-25

ATONEMENT / DEFINITION :

"The work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation."

Wayne Grudem

HE HIMSELF BORE OUR SINS IN HIS BODY ON THE TREE

1 Pet 2:24

כִּפָּר

Kaphar (Hebrew):
To cover over, purge, and/or make atonement

καταλλάσσω

Katallasso (Greek):
To reconcile (those who at variance), receive one into favor, and/or make atonement

ATONEMENT IN THE OT

In the Old Testament, atonement (*Kaphar*) refers to the process God established whereby humans could make an offering to God to cover sin and reconcile relationship with Him. Such offerings, including both live and dead animals, were required to cover over the effects of sin. In Exodus, God covered over his people's sins as they placed the blood of a Passover Lamb over their doorposts (Ex 12:7,13). Afterward, God instructed the high priests of Israel to enter into the holy of holies with a blood sacrifice once a year on the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*). After sprinkling the blood of a goat on the "atonement cover" (*Kapporeth*), the nation's sins were symbolically laid on a scapegoat (*Azazel*) that was released into the wilderness to die (Lev 16). In the end, these sacrifices, while covering over sin, were unable to take sins away. For this to occur, God Himself promised to provide a perfect atoning sacrifice for sin (Is 53:10-12).



ATONEMENT IN THE NT

In the New Testament, the climax of God's atoning work is Christ's death on the cross. At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus was identified as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). In offering himself as the perfect Passover Lamb, Jesus' blood removes the effects of sin in a way that OT sacrifices could not (Heb 10:1-18). At the cross, Christ died as both our representative and our substitute. As our representative, Christ intercedes on behalf of sinners as our perfect, patient high priest (Heb 9:11-28). As our substitute, Christ bears the penalties of sin in order to reconcile sinners and make them righteous (2 Cor 5:18-21). Because Christ was sinless, his atoning work is therefore eternal, complete, and effective for all time. No other sacrifice will ever be needed to be offered for sin (Heb 10:11-18). Therefore, Christians can confidently draw near to our holy and gracious God in faith (Heb 10:19-25).

WHAT DOES JESUS' BLOOD PROVIDE FOR US?

RECONCILIATION



Sin alienates from loving fellowship with God--Jesus' blood brings us back into a righteous relationship with God.

S: Col 1:20, Eph 2:14-18, Rom 5:10-11, 2 Cor 5:11-21

REDEMPTION



Sin makes us slaves--Jesus' blood sets us free from the bondage to Satan, sin, and death.

S: Eph 1:7, Rom 3:23-24, Heb 9:12, Col 1:12-14

JUSTIFICATION



Sin makes us guilty and condemns us before God--Jesus' blood brings pardons our sins and makes us righteous.

S: Rom 5:1-9, Gal 2:15-21, Tit 3:3-7, 1 Cor 6:11

PROPITIATION



Sin brings us under God's righteous wrath--Jesus' blood satisfies/quenches God's wrath.

S: Rom 3:25, Heb 2:17, 1 Jn 2:2, 4:10, Rom 5:9

VICTORY



Sin brings us under the tyranny of enemies--Jesus' blood triumphs over the enemies of Satan, sin, and death.

S: Col 2:9-15, Rom 8:31-39, Rev 19:11-16, 1 Cor 15:56-58

EXPIATION



Sin defiles us and makes us unclean--Jesus' blood cleanses us from all sin and defilement.

S: 1 Jn 1:7, Heb 9:13-14, 10:19-22, 1 Cor 6:11, Rev 7:14

"To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Rev 1:5-6