

## **Biblical Theology**

### **U4L3: Atonement Part 1**

#### **Defining the Atonement**

- 1. Definition: The atonement is the work Christ did in his life and death to earn our salvation.**
  - Salvation from Christ's point of view.
- 2. The model for atonement was established in the Old Testament.**
  - *Leviticus 4:35 - And all its fat he shall remove as the fat of the lamb is removed from the sacrifice of peace offerings, and the priest shall burn it on the altar, on top of the Lord's food offerings. And the priest shall make atonement for him for the sin which he has committed, and he shall be forgiven.*
  - *Leviticus 16:30 - on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you;*
- 3. Christ's atonement is God's ultimate, loving and just and response to mankind's sin.**
  - *John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son*
  - *Romans 3:25-26 - as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood*

#### **Mankind's Need for Atonement**

- **Legal Results of Sin**
  - Mankind is guilty and individually responsible for sin.
  - Mankind is unholy due to the filth of sin.
  - Mankind deserves punishment as a result of sinning.
  - Mankind is captive to moral indebtedness as a result of sin.
- **Relational Results of Sin**
  - Mankind is the subject of God's anger and wrath as a result of sin.
  - Mankind's relationship with God is fractured and estranged as a result of sin.

#### **Aspects of the Atonement**

- **Legal Aspects of Atonement**
  - 1. Expiation – Jesus acts to remove guilt and responsibility of sin.**
    - *2 Corinthians 5:19 not counting their trespasses against them*
    - *Colossians 2:13-14 - having canceled out the certificate of debt .*
  - 2. Sacrifice – Holy, cleansing of sin through blood.**
    - *John 1:29 - "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*
    - *Romans 3:25 - through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.*
      - *In God's moral economy, life is the cost of sin.*
    - *Hebrews 9:22 - without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*
    - *Hebrews 9:26 - to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.*
    - *Hebrews 10:4 - impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*
  - 3. Substitution – Jesus took on the sentence of death in man's place.**
    - *Isaiah 53:4-6 - and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
    - *Galatians 3:10-13 - by becoming a curse for us,*
    - *1 Peter 3:18 - the righteous for the unrighteous*
  - 4. Redemption – Jesus pays off debt and releases mankind from bondage of sin.**
    - **Ransom**
      - *1 Peter 3:18 - it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold*
      - *1 Corinthians 6:20 - you were bought at a price.*
      - *Mark 10:45 -but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
    - **Bondage**
      - *Hebrews 2:15 - and free those who all their lives were held in slavery*
      - *Romans 6:14 - For sin shall no longer be your master*

- **Relational Aspects of Atonement**

1. **Propitiation - Jesus satisfies God's anger and wrath toward our sin.**

- *Romans 3:23-25 - in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation*
- *1 John 2:2 - He is the propitiation for our sins,*
- *Hebrews 2:17 - to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

2. **Reconciliation – Jesus reverses relational damage and ends estrangement.**

- *2 Corinthians 5:18-19 - God was reconciling the world to himself*
- *Ephesians 2:15-16 - reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross,*
- *Colossians 1:19-22 - he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death*
- *Romans 5:10 - For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. In what ways has this chapter enabled you to appreciate Christ's death more? Do you have more or less confidence that your sins have been paid for by Christ?
2. Many people use the term that Jesus has given us "complete salvation." Based on this lesson, why do you think this term is used?
3. Are prepared to, in your own words, explain to someone the atonement or answer questions about the atonement to highlight its different aspects.

### **Reading Assignment**

*Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem – Chapter 27: The Atonement*