

THE ATONEMENT



“Christianity is the theology of the cross and the theology of the cross is the atonement.”

- M. Luther

“The atonement is the purpose of the incarnation and the explanation of the gospel.”

- J. I. Packer

“The cross is about the heart of the Gospel which is substitution and satisfaction by way of an acceptable blood atonement.” – R.C. Sproul

“The atonement is the central doctrine of Christianity. It is the heart of the Christian faith.”

- J. Boice

- 1) We deserve to die as the penalty for sin.
- 2) We deserve to bear God's wrath against sin.
- 3) We are separated from God by our sin.
- 4) We are in bondage to sin and the kingdom of Satan.

- W. Grudem

Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in
my place condemned He stood -
Sealed my pardon with His blood.
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Guilty, vile and helpless we, Spotless
Lamb of God was He; full atonement!
Can it be?
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

- Phillip Bliss

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

“It cannot be emphasized too strongly that God’s love is the source, not the consequence of the atonement....God does not love us because Christ died for us; Christ died for us because God loved us. If it is God’s wrath which needed to be propitiated, it is God’s love which did the propitiating.”

– J. Stott

Numbers 14:18(a)

¹⁸ 'The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression;

Deuteronomy 7:9-10

⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; ¹⁰ but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face.

T or F

“It is in the cross of Jesus Christ that we find the only means by which God clears the guilty.”

- R. C. Sproul

“How many ways are there that God clears the guilty? My friends, there are no ways by which God clears the guilty! God redeems the guilty. He pays the price for the reconciliation of the guilty. But he never exonerates, clears, or acquits those He says are guilty by reason of their sin. Guilt demands satisfaction. The guilt of sinners is clearly set forth in the Bible – the indictment is there – and that is why there is an atonement.” – R.C. Sproul

“By this means justice has been done! At Calvary, redeeming love and retributive justice joined hands.” – J.I. Packer

Romans 3:24-26

²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

“Was it possible for God to have accomplished salvation for his people in any other way, or was he bound to do so by the substitutionary death of his Son? Could God have simply exercised his inexhaustible power to destroy sin in another way? Could he, by virtue of his infinite authority have declared his people saved simply by divine fiat? Or, is there something inherent to the person and work of Christ that makes the cross not merely the only actual way of salvation but also the only possible way of salvation?”

- D. Mayhue Theo

Matthew 26:39

³⁹ And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”

Luke 24:25-26

²⁵ And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?”

Hebrews 2:17

¹⁷ Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

“[Satisfaction] cannot come about unless there should be someone who would make a payment to God greater than everything that exists apart from God....It is also a necessity that someone who can give to God from his own property something which exceeds everything which is inferior to God, must himself be superior to everything that exists apart from God...Now, there is nothing superior to all that exists which is not God – except God...But the obligation rests with man, and no one else, to make the payment...otherwise mankind is not making recompense. If, therefore....no one can pay except God, and no one ought to pay except man: it is necessary that a God-man should pay it. Therefore, Jesus Christ, the God-man, is the only one who can offer satisfaction for the sin of humanity!” - G. Allison, History of Theo.

“Was there any other way for God to save human beings than by sending his Son to die in our place? Before answering this question, it is important to realize that it was not necessary for God to save people at all. When we appreciate that ‘God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness to be kept until the judgment’ (2 Peter 2:4), then we realize that God could also have chosen to save no one, just as He did with the sinful angels. So, in this sense the atonement was not absolutely necessary. But once God, in His love, decided to save some human beings, then several passages in Scripture indicate that there was no other way for God to do this than through the death of His Son.” – W. Grudem, Sys. Theo.

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ For all of us have become like one who is unclean,
And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment;
And all of us wither like a leaf,
And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Hebrews 10:4

⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

II Corinthians 5:21

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

I Peter 3:18

¹⁸ For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;