

Chapter 21 Reconciled By Blood

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God:
Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in
that is in Christ Jesus:

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood,
to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past,
the forbearance of God;

To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which
Notice in verse 25 Paul tells us that Christ was “set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood,

Under the O.T., before the Cross of Calvary, there was no “putting away” of sin, and no reconciliation

There was only an “atonement,” a covering over, a passing by, and so when the Lord Jesus Christ came
covered and passed over through the forbearance of God.

In the O.T. God typically accepted the blood of sacrificial animals slain by thousands in the tabernacle
note that when Jesus Christ came, He Himself, by His own precious blood, would make full and complete

This act of God in the tabernacle worship, by which He passed over the sins of Israel upon the basis of

Meaning Of The Word “Atonement”

The Hebrew word most commonly translated “atonement” in the O.T. which most perfectly expresses is

Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without

“Pitch” is the word for “atonement.”

Noah was to pitch the ark within and without with pitch. The words used are “kaphar”

(Gen. 6:14) “thou shalt atone it within and without with atonement.”

This gives the O.T. Picture of atonement. It means “to cover.”

The pitch, the “atonement,” was designed to keep out the waters of judgement and to make Noah safe

That is what the blood of the atonement in all the O.T. Sacrifice did. It held back and restrained the judgement
God was destroying the world outside.

But this blood of atonement of sacrificial offerings and beasts did not actually, and could not actually “
atonement in the O.T., is as shed in the tabernacle services, only held back the judgement of God until
reconciliation would result.

So under the old covenant there was no full propitiation of reconciliation, but merely a covering and passing
be reconciled.

The blood of the O.T. atonement deferred the judgement temporarily until the coming of Christ, and then finished.

They were to be repeated day after day and year after year.

That is why the O.T. saint was pardoned, but never justified.
The word "justification" never occurs before the Cross of Calvary,
and the word "pardon" never occurs after Calvary in the Bible.

The blood of the animal sacrifices merely pointed to the blood of reconciliation and propitiation of the perfect sacrifice.

(Rom.3:25) "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood ... for remission of sins."

*On the basis of the blood of the sacrifices in the tabernacle, God was able to forbear the sins of the O.T. saints until the blood of Christ was shed.

This also is the reason why saints of the O.T. Could not go into heaven, but were kept in Sheol-Hades -

{Hebrew word rendered as "Hell" - Greek word - which means "unseen underworld" or place of the Dead. }

Until the Cross, for until sin had been paid for, and reconciliation made, God would not permit even a righteous man to enter heaven.

The blood atonement of the O.T., then, merely covered sin, while the blood of Jesus took away sin and made reconciliation.

The Need Universal

This need of atonement is not only the revelation of Scripture, but is written in the hearts of the entire human race.

Wherever man is found, even without a Bible, there is a conscience which cries out for atonement.

Read the bottom of (158 & 159)

"Man is incurably religious". Atheism is an invention of modern civilization; you will find no atheists among the nations of the world.

Man was born with a sense of God, and a consciousness of responsibility and guilt, and those who deny this are denying their own nature.

But not only does the entire race believe in a God, or gods, whatever form these gods take, there is in every man a desire to appease this outraged god.

We see in Adam and Eve, after they had sinned their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked. They made an attempt at atonement for their sins.

We trace it through all bloody sacrifices of the O.T. and the tabernacle, where countless hundreds of thousands of animals flowed in an unbroken stream from the court of the tabernacle and the temple.

And yet all this could only avail as an atonement without any permanent benefit apart from the blood
Not all the seas of blood,
Which flowed until the Cross,
Could make a single sinner clean,
Or purge him from his dross.

Or as the writer of Hebrews put it in unmistakable language, (Heb. 10:1-6).

“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year for then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should not have suffered again. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a burnt offering thou hast had; and in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.”

“But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God:

For by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified (Heb. 10:12,14).

The Universal Need

Now all of that was by revelation of God. But even without the revelation through priest and prophets, we have this same conscience of sin, and the need for atonement as we watch the poor, blind, yet intensely earnest man, offer a sacrifice upon the altar of their pagan idols. See that father as he beholds his son cast into the open fire-belching maw of the heathen fire-god, Moloch; and as he stops his ears at the cry of agony of his child, only an expression of that irresistible yearning in the heart of man to appease an outraged deity. Behold the mother whose cry of despair cast it into the river below to feed the crocodiles. Dozen't she love that baby? Ah, yes, and she must be appeased for the wrongs of her life. See the ascetics as they sleep upon boards pierced with nails, only an expression of the innate, undying consciousness of sin and the need of an atonement.

But all of these fail to give peace; all have come short of the goal sought for. God's school of conscience prepares the hearts of men for the revelation of God's own plan, the Lamp of God, the Lord Jesus. And the reconciliation for sin by His own sacrifice. We, therefore, declare that the whole plan of atonement by

Two Basic Attributes

In the Bible God is revealed to us by His attributes, and these attributes fall into two classes — those which are merciful and those which are just. In the first group we have God's love, and mercy, and compassion.

In the second group we have God's holiness, justice and righteousness. Now God's love yearned for the sinner, but His holiness demanded his salvation.

Now if God were merely perfect love, there would have been no problem at all, for He simply could have forgiven. That is what we often do, instead of punishing our children, love gets the best of our justice, and God is infinitely and perfectly holy, just and truthful.

God had said, “In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” This involved more than physical death; it must of necessity carry out the penalty. Man must die and be eternally separated from God.

But God's love is also infinite and His love demanded man's restoration into fellowship with God, while the whole problem of the atonement.

If God satisfies His justice and keeps His Word, man is forever, and God's love is left unrequited.

But if He saves man without demanding the proper, eternal punishment, then God becomes a liar, for

Someone has called this problem the "heartbreak of God."

If God's love is satisfied, His justice and truth and holiness are violated. If His justice is satisfied, His love

How can both of these be satisfied? Of course, there is no human solution, no human answer to this problem. Infinite justice is also infinite wisdom, found a way for the solving of this tremendous problem.

Man could not pay, for if he did, it meant eternal separation, and love demanded his restoration. It would be besides himself. Angels could not do it, for God demands that man pay for man's sin.

And so God found a way, and took the responsibility upon Himself.

God became man, and so could take man's place, and because He was also infinite God, He could pay for man's sin. Christ, and upon Him was placed man's guilt and sin, and He bore it to Calvary, and there suffered the

Because He was a man, he could substitute for man; because He was God, he could bear the infinite

"All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid

For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made righteous by His

"And all things are of God, Whom hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ and hath given to us the

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself...

Now then we are the ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in

God is completely reconciled. He is perfectly satisfied with that which His Son Jesus did upon the Cross.

There is no more that God or man can do, and so to refuse His offer of peace and reconciliation is to

The only sin which can now condemn you is the sin of not believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. (The unpardonable

"He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because