

## Atonement

### Lesson 26

1. ATONEMENT is the act by which God RESTORES a relationship of HARMONY and UNITY between Himself and human beings.
2. The blood of Jesus Christ is clearly the PRICE PAID for atonement.
3. A helpful concept in understanding atonement is to divide the word into three segments AT ONE MENT.
4. Because of GOD'S ATONING GRACE and forgiveness we are reinstated to a relationship of AT ONE MENT with God in spite of our sin.

### Special Notation

Before we proceed with the study of atonement, it is imperative that a few words be understood. We have studied some of these words before, but we shall set them off in a group so you will recall the meaning of each word as we study this lesson on atonement.

- \* **Reconciliation** - "the restoration of man to fellowship with God."
  - \* **Propitiation** - "the satisfaction of the just demands of God's holiness for the punishment of sin."
  - \* **Redemption** - "a ransom, the price paid to free a slave -- to be bought -- to deliver by paying a price."
  - \* **Justification** - "to declare one righteous (to justify does not make one righteous). God declares a person just on the basis of acceptance of the shed blood of Christ."
  - \* **Substitution** - "the death of Christ was substitutionary, in our place, because He tasted death for every man."
  - \* **Sacrifice** - "One who gives what is necessary to bring God and man together; Christ was sacrificed for us."
  - \* **Type or Shadow** - "a person or incident which carries a prophetic significance beyond itself. Old Testament types are pictures of the New Testament fulfillment, such as the sacrificial system of the Old Testament was a type of the ultimate sacrifice, the atonement of Christ on the cross."
5. Christ's sacrifice of Himself MADE POSSIBLE man's forgiveness because it satisfied the JUST and HOLY demands of God.
  6. The sacrifices of the Old Testament were SHADOWS of the atonement of Christ. The CROSS of Jesus Christ was not an AFTER THOUGHT of God. Rev. 13:8
  7. The atonement of Christ was God's NECESSARY PLAN because man's sin meant that no person is WORTHY of a relationship with a holy God. Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8 & 18

8. We all stand condemned by sin because our HUMAN, SINFUL, nature is at ENMITY with God's HOLINESS. Romans 3:19, 5:10
9. There are several SHADOWS (for shadowings) of the atonement.
  - a. GENESIS 3:21 - God made coats of skin to COVER the nakedness of SINFUL MAN.
  - b. Exodus 12:12 & 13, 1 Corinthians 5:7 tell of the PASSOVER LAMB which pointed to the CROSS OF CHRIST.
  - c. Throughout the Old Testament and especially in the book of Leviticus God's OBJECT LESSON was always the animal sacrifices.
  - d. The DAY OF ATONEMENT was a yearly reminder of the importance that without BLOOD there could be no atonement. Leviticus 16:29-30

\* **Special Notation**

In chapter 16 of Leviticus the word "atonement" is used 19 times in the NIV.

- e. The blood of lambs only "COVERED" the sins of Israel in anticipation of the cross which would TAKE AWAY the sins of the world. John 1:29; Heb. 10:4
10. In the Old Testament the high priest was the CENTRAL FIGURE of the atonement. The high priest was Aaron in Leviticus 16.
11. In the New Testament, JESUS, the Great High Priest, was the central figure of the atonement. Jesus not only OFFERED the sacrifice for sin but HE WAS HIMSELF the sacrifice. Hebrews 9:11, 12 & 26; Genesis 22:8
12. Note again that the sacrifice of Jesus did not MERELY COVER sin but DID AWAY with sin. Hebrews 9:26b
13. In order to PERFORM the ACT OF ATONEMENT the priest of the Old Testament had to be CLEAN. Leviticus 16:4b, 6 & 11
14. The animal sacrifice had to be WITHOUT SPOT OR BLEMISH. Leviticus 4:3 (among many)
15. Jesus MET ALL REQUIREMENTS for eternal atonement both as PRIEST and as SACRIFICE. He was clean, totally WITHOUT SIN. Hebrews 4:14-16
16. Atonement includes:
  - a. RECONCILIATION - Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:18 & 19
  - b. atoning SACRIFICE - 1 John 2:2; 1 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 10:12
  - c. REDEMPTION - 1 Cor. 1:30 and Colossians 1:14
  - d. JUSTIFICATION - Romans 3:28
  - e. SUBSTITUTION - 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24

17. The SCOPE of atonement is UNLIMITED. Matthew 20:28; John 3:17

18. Atonement is ETERNAL. John 3:16; Romans 6:23; John 10:28; 1 John 5:11-13  
(many more)

### **Conclusion**

The atonement places several obligations upon all Christians. We should hate sin. It was our sin that nailed Jesus to the cross. He shed His blood so that we might become “new creatures in Christ.” His death on the cross was the price He had to pay for our salvation.

We should love the Lord with all our being. If He loved us enough to leave His place in heaven, was made flesh in our likeness, offered Himself on the cross and died that we might live, then, we should love Him enough to live for Him and even die for Him if necessary.

We should tell the world the message of our Lord. He is our Saviour. He is our peace, our hope, our joy, our love, our light, our intercessor, our rest, our assurance of eternal life.

Are you “at-one” (atone) with Christ?